

Abu Alaa denies he will visit Jerusalem soon

TUNIS (R) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official denied on Sunday he planned to visit occupied Jerusalem near future. An Israeli official said on Sunday Ahmad Quraiah, the head of the Palestinian team in the secret negotiations which led to the Israel-PLO agreement, would attend a business conference in Jerusalem from Oct. 30 and Nov. 1. But Mr. Quraiah said in a statement in Tunis: "This report is baseless and my visit to Jerusalem is dependent on the Israeli army withdrawing from the occupied territories." Mr. Quraiah is the director of the PLO's Economic Department, Samed.

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Guerrillas attack Israeli allies

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Guerrillas attacked an Israeli-backed militia post in South Lebanon with mortars, rockets and machineguns three times Sunday, security sources said. There were no reports of casualties. In the last attack guerrillas fired several Katyusha rockets and at least 20 mortar bombs at a South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia post at Shoumriyeh on the tip of Israel's self-declared "security zone," the sources said. The pro-Syrian Amal movement, led by Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, claimed responsibility for two earlier attacks in which guerrillas fired anti-tank rockets and machineguns at the hilltop post.

25 killed in Kurdish insurgency

ANKARA (R) — A family of nine were burnt to death in their house by Kurdish separatist rebels in southeast Turkey, Anatolia news agency reported on Sunday. In other incidents in the insurgency, Turkish troops killed 17 rebels in a series of clashes. Two soldiers were killed and the guerrillas shot dead a bus passenger. The semi-official Anatolia said the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas set fire to houses as they fled after ambushing a military truck in Mus province on Saturday. Nine people, seven of them children, died in one house, Anatolia said. A soldier and a guerrilla were killed in the ambush, added the report, which could not be independently confirmed.

Iran seizes five Kuwaiti boats

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Iranian authorities have seized five Kuwaiti boats in the northern Gulf and detained 19 fishermen, an Interior Ministry official said Sunday. Kuwait was in contact with Tehran to secure their release. "Five boats, with 19 fishermen on board, were seized on Friday after straying out of Kuwait territorial waters," the official said. He did not specify whether the boats were in international or Iranian waters when they were intercepted.

Police officer killed in Suez

CAIRO (AFP) — One policeman was killed and seven were injured in a clash with Muslim fundamentalists outside a mosque in the eastern Egyptian city of Suez, police said Sunday. Security forces, meanwhile, detained almost 200 suspected Islamic militants in a crackdown ahead of Monday's referendum in which President Hosni Mubarak was set to win a third term in office. Police said the clash erupted late Saturday as fundamentalists shouted anti-government slogans and tried to put up posters outside a mosque. An officer, Major Mohammad Abdul Shafi, was shot dead and seven other policemen injured in an exchange of fire.

'Israeli-PLO pact example for Tibet'

CALCUTTA (R) — The Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, said Sunday the agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) could be an example for solving the Tibet problem. "If the PLO and Israel, which had engaged in hostilities for such a long time, could now enter into an agreement, why cannot there be one between Tibet and China," the Dalai Lama told reporters in Calcutta.

Montazeri in hospital

TEHRAN (AFP) — Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, once the heir to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as Iran's spiritual guide, has undergone a kidney operation and is recovering in hospital, his son said Sunday. The 71-year-old Ayatollah entered a Tehran hospital last Tuesday and had the operation two days later, Ahmad Montazeri said.

Russian hardliners launch armed revolt

Yeltsin declares emergency, moves troops; Rutskoi, Khasbulatov direct supporters

Combined agency dispatches

MOSCOW — Hardline communists seeking to restore the Soviet Union launched an armed uprising Sunday to overthrow President Boris Yeltsin, taking the offensive after a 12-day standoff over the future of Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin declared a state of emergency in Moscow, banning rallies and demonstrations.

A major television channel went off the air, stormed by anti-Yeltsin forces after day-long clashes with police in the capital that Moscow's Mayor Yuri Luzhkov said killed four people.

He blamed "bandits" for the deaths of two policemen and two Interior Ministry soldiers. He said the first five floors of the mayor's building had been seized by raiders.

Mr. Yeltsin said in a message broadcast on television that his supporters would defeat any attempt to oust him by supporters of the conservative parliament.

"We will win," Mr. Yeltsin said, calling on Muscovites to defend "democracy and liberty."

"We have enough forces to restore order in Moscow. Today it is the destiny of Russia and its children that is being decided," he said.

The message was the first official public reaction by Mr. Yeltsin to the crisis that struck Moscow Sunday as parliament supporters rampaged through the city, seizing city hall and attacking several media installations, notably the Ostankino television centre and the Itar-Tass news agency.

CNN said eight people were killed and 100 injured as Rutskoi loyalists stormed the Ostankino television tower.

The television showed pictures of dead bodies in uniform and of injured people being treated at a Moscow hospital.

Radio Russia said Mr. Yeltsin was briefing paratroopers to the Russian capital.

The radio said a unit of paratroopers from the city of Tula, south of Moscow, had



A blood-covered police officer tries to reach safety on a militia vehicle after being badly wounded during violent clashes between marching protesters and security forces outside the White House in Moscow Sunday (AFP photo)

been summoned to the capital. Quoting well informed sources, it said a unit of Interior Ministry troops based outside Moscow had gone over to the parliamentary side.

Journalists at the Ostankino building said the ground floor was ablaze and defenders and attackers continued to exchange gunfire.

But Russian news agencies said the assault on the building had been resisted and government reinforcements were arriving at the scene.

An official of Itar-Tass later broadcast a statement saying the agency was continuing to work normally despite the presence of armed anti-Yeltsin protesters in part of the building.

"Despite the blockade imposed on Itar-Tass by armed men, the news service is continuing its work normally," the agency's director, Vitaly Ignatenko, said in a dispatch sent over the agency's wires.

A Itar-Tass journalist told AFP that 16 armed men wearing red armbands stamped with the hammer and sickle symbol of the former Soviet Union had taken up positions on the ground floor of the agency's headquarters.

He said discussions were underway between agency officials and the men, who described themselves as backers of ousted Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi.

Chaotic scenes sparked the worst violence in a protracted crisis over who rules the vast, nuclear-armed country.

About 15,000 angry demonstrators forced their way through rows of police cordons to break a siege of parliament, sheltering lawmakers deposed by Mr. Yeltsin in a Sept. 21 decree paving a way for fresh elections.

Mr. Rutskoi, the chief opposition leader, urged tanks to storm the Kremlin.

In Washington, the Clinton administration called events in Moscow disturbing and voiced support for Mr. Yeltsin. President Bill Clinton said the United States must back "Yeltsin and the process of bringing about free and fair elections."

But longtime rival, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, said Mr. Yeltsin must pull all armed forces out of Moscow and rescind his decree imposing emergency rule.

Mr. Yeltsin's foes, apparently in a carefully-planned action, seized control of part of the city and attacked the Ostankino TV headquarters in northeast Moscow.

Later the main Commonwealth Television channel went off the air after anti-Yeltsin forces stormed into TV headquarters, a Reuters correspondent reported from outside the building.

Russia's second channel continued to broadcast. Its television centre is situated at another point in central Moscow.

"All programmes on channel one are being switched off because Ostankino is being stormed, but it has not yet been fully overrun," a spokesman said.

Reuters correspondent Christian Burckhardt, at the scene, reported flames and explosions from an adjacent building to the TV centre, and the sound of firing.

An AFP journalist at the

building said the committee they established would serve as a vehicle for Jordan to receive some of the funds pledged by nations to help implement the self-rule agreement between Israel and the PLO.

At a conference held in Washington last week, inter-

nations will have limited autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for a period of five years while negotiations get under way in the final status of these territories.

Israel and Jordan signed a document committing them to an agenda for future peace talks on Sept. 14, a day after the PLO-Israeli accord was signed at the White House.

Jordan ruled the West Bank before it was occupied by Israel in 1967. The Kingdom renounced all territorial claims to the land in 1988.

Palestinians make up a nearly half of Jordan's 3.9 million population. They control much of the Kingdom's economy through banks, major trading houses and industries they own.

The Kingdom is saddled with \$6.5 billion in foreign debt. Its budget has been especially straitened since the 1991 Gulf crisis, when opposition to the U.S.-led war against Iraq cost Amman millions of dollars in aid from the oil-rich Gulf states.

Jordan's role in the Palestinian autonomy has not been clearly defined, adding to the government's worries.

Palestinian officials in Amman said the economic cooperation under study would involve Jordanian control of Palestinian banking and financial institutions in the autonomous territories, con-

(Continued on page 10)



Protesters beat and kick a riot policeman after their march was stopped by police on one of the main Moscow streets Sunday (AFP photo)

Jordan, Palestinians study economic ties — Majali

Premature to judge scope and outcome

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali said Sunday Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were discussing economic cooperation between the Kingdom and Palestinians in territories soon to gain autonomy from Israel under a peace accord.

But he said it was premature to speculate on the scope and details of any interaction.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Dr. Majali said the government was awaiting the return of Crown Prince Hassan from Washington to learn details of a Jordanian-Israeli economic committee formed after a meeting in Washington Friday between Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The White House meeting was the first such high-level encounter between the two Middle East neighbours, which have been technically in a state of war since the creation of the Jewish state in 1948.

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(Continued on page 10)

Arabs schedule boycott talks in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Arab officials will meet in Damascus this month and discuss blacklisting more companies doing business with Israel in spite of U.S. pressure to end the boycott. "Invitations had been sent to all Arab states to attend the 67th meeting in Oct. 24 in Damascus," a spokesman for the Arab Boycott Office, which is based in the Syrian capital, told Reuters. "The meeting would discuss cases of companies that should be boycotted, companies to be removed from the boycott list and other issues related to the operations of the boycott offices," he said. He did not name any companies. The United States has stepped up pressure for an end to the 40-year-old boycott since Israel signed a self-rule accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation last month. Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, in a U.S. television interview, said the boycott should last until Israel withdrew from all Arab lands. "No one can expect to pluck the fruits of peace while peace itself is still absent," Mr. Assad said.

U.N. team tries to unlock Iraqi secrets

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The head of the biggest team of U.N. arms inspectors sent to Iraq said Sunday Baghdad still had to yield secrets about its banned weapons programme.

"That is why the current high-level talks are taking place. That is why we have a big team here," Nikita Smidovich told Reuters as Iraqi and U.N. officials went into a second day of talks on weapons control and monitoring.

Baghdad wants the talks — expected to last four days — to produce a report which will persuade the Security Council to lift sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Little has leaked from the closed sessions. Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on Iraqi weapons, is leading the U.N. team. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz the Iraqis.

Mr. Ekeus emerged from what he called very intense discussions on Saturday and said he was prepared to stay in Baghdad "for as long as it is necessary."

The initial meetings established a number of joint committees to study technical details of how to implement a long-term plan to monitor Iraq's weapons programmes, a U.N. official said, declining to be named.

The committees, whose number was not specified, would work in parallel with the Ekeus-Aziz talks.

The official added that the team of more than 50 U.N.



Rolf Ekeus, the head of the U.N. Special Commission for disarming Iraq (third from left) and Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz (third from right) accompanied by their delegates, discuss long-term arms controls at the Foreign Ministry in Baghdad (AFP photo)

experts in ballistic, chemical and biological weapons was Sunday carrying out further inspections of military sites.

The experts from the biggest team of inspectors deployed by UNSCOM to Iraq since it was formed in the wake of the 1991 Gulf war.

Mr. Aziz, quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency, said Saturday that Iraq "considers the talks to be important" as they were aimed at "closing definitively the file" on disarmament talks.

Iraq has said it would cooperate with the United Nations on the understanding that

the three-year-old trade embargo would be lifted.

Another senior weapons expert, Maurizio Zifferero of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), also took part in the negotiations led by Mr. Ekeus, a U.N. spokesman said.

On arrival Friday, Mr. Ekeus said he hoped to establish a long-term monitoring system for Iraq's weapons of mass destruction but that he expected the talks to be "complex."

The government newspaper Al Jumhuriya has said the talks

should lead to agreement that Baghdad had complied with all the U.N. conditions for lifting the embargo, which was imposed on Iraq in August 1990 when it invaded Kuwait.

The Security Council last month decided to renew the sanctions, arguing that Baghdad had not yet met its conditions.

A source close to the United Nations told AFP that the Iraqi-U.N. talks could help narrow differences between the two parties but that the "gap is still wide" over the lifting of the sanctions.

The government newspaper Al Jumhuriya has said the talks

Israeli forces hunt activists; Hamas strikes, PLO protests

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israel said on Sunday its army was targeting militants opposed to its peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and denied this violated understandings with the Palestinian leadership.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat protested in a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin about the killing of two members of the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas on Saturday and the arrest of 16 Arabs, Palestinians said.

A strike called by Hamas shut down the Gaza Strip towns of Nussirat and Bureij, where the local leader and deputy of Hamas's armed wing were gunned down in an army sweep on Saturday, a correspondent reported.

Masked Hamas members, who oppose the Israel-PLO autonomy accord, paraded in the streets of Bureij before the army deployed in force, witnesses said.

But the protest action was only partially observed in Gaza City, where unknown

assailants fired shots at an army base, and the rest of the strip. Soldiers rioted in Gaza City, but no injuries were reported.

Protesters burned tyres at several crossroads in the city. "We will carry on our actions in the (occupied) territories and particularly in Gaza against Palestinians wanted for terrorism," Gaza army commander General Yom Tov Samia told Israel Radio.

He branded the wanted men as "suicidal," an allusion to a spate of suicide bomb attacks in September that left three fundamentalists dead but failed to kill any Israelis.

The PLO urged Israel to halt

violence against Palestinians after Saturday's massive military sweep, less than two weeks ahead of the launch of Palestinian autonomy.

"We call on the Israeli government to stop all such activities because they create a negative atmosphere," Bassam Abu Sharif, Mr. Arafat's political adviser, told Israel Radio.

The operation was "in breach of the agreement" between Israel and the PLO on autonomy, he said.

"Stopping violence was an agreement and we call this violence against Palestinians," Mr. Abu Sharif said in an interview from PLO headquarters in the Tunisian capital.

The troops also rocketed homes in the biggest army operation since the Israel-PLO deal was signed on Sept. 13.

"I emphasise our actions against wanted Hamas activists... that is the main emphasis on our part in the near future," Gen. Samia said.

He said the army would not use the same measures against groups that halted attacks on

(Continued on page 10)

Woman wounded

AN ISRAELI woman was shot and wounded by gunfire from a passing car south of Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank Sunday, Israel Radio said.

Israeli security sources confirmed an Israeli woman had been shot and wounded but they did not initially know the nature of the vehicles involved.

Arabs resist U.S. efforts to call off boycott of Israel

By Jacques Charmelot
Agence France Presse

NEW YORK — The United States can bank in its quick rallying of international aid for the Palestinians but has made little headway in convincing most Arab countries to lift their boycott against Israel.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher spent much of the week in New York discussing the issue with Arab ministers, but returned to Washington Friday without a single, clear-cut promise.

Lifting of the economic boycott and rescinding anti-Israel U.N. resolutions are high on Washington's diplomatic agenda, especially in the wake of the Sept. 13 accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) giving Palestinians limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

"The boycott has become an anachronism," a senior U.S. official said.

But U.S. moves to end it have met with resistance, even from one of Washington's most faithful allies, Prince Saud Al Faisal of Saudi Arabia. The prince has upheld the Arab line, saying the Arab League would study the boycott issue.

The Arabs have given no date for such a review to the U.S. administration, the U.S. official said.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO Executive Committee and the head of the Palestinian delegation at Friday's aid conference, said the Palestinian leadership saw no benefit in lifting the boycott during the planned two-year interim period of limited Palestinian autonomy, before negotiations on the definitive status of the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank.

The 43-year-old boycott prohibits Arab countries and businesses from trading with Israel and closes Arab markets to companies that do business with Israel.

Israel and the United States argue that these sanctions are costing the Israeli economy billions of dollars and are now completely incompatible with the new spirit of cooperation spawned in the Middle East by the Israeli-PLO accord.

Some countries, including Kuwait, have announced they would ease certain aspects of the boycott. And U.S. diplomats have acknowledged privately that the boycott is not being strictly respected.

However, the U.S. official said, "obviously, we are not satisfied. We want an official end to the boycott."

Mr. Christopher and his assistant secretary of near Eastern affairs, Edward Djerejian, tried to persuade the Arabs that they could not do the Palestinians, who will have structured economic contacts with Israel, and at the same time maintain a boycott which, if enforced, would hinder economic development in the newly autonomous territories.

"I don't see what the boycott has to do with the pledging tomorrow," the Saudi prince tersely remarked Thursday, the eve of the international meeting in Washington at which \$600 million in aid were pledged to the Palestinians next year and some \$2 billion, dollars over five years.

The toughest talk came from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad during a rare television interview broadcast Friday in the United States.

The Syrian leader said he foresaw no easing of the boycott before Israel withdrew completely from all occupied Arab lands.

"The boycott took place because of wars and occupation," Mr. Assad said, adding that peace must come before other aspects of normalisation.

The boycott question was the focus of an Arab coordination meeting in New York Thursday. According to Arab diplomatic sources, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, who is due to arrive in Washington next week, showed the toughest opposition, describing the Israeli-PLO accord as a stab in the back to the Arabs.

First U.S. products at Tehran fair since 1979 revolution

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani opened the 19th International Tehran Fair on Saturday with U.S. products making a spectacular showing for the first time since the Islamic revolution of 1979.

American industrial and household goods bearing "Made in USA" tags were prominently displayed among products from 50 other countries at the fair.

Well-known American consumer giants such as General Motors, displayed a Cadillac and a Chevrolet. General Electric and Westinghouse also came in with household appliances which were adorned with small U.S. flags.

But the U.S. companies were represented by Iranian firms since Tehran and Washington severed diplomatic ties in 1981 following the capture of American hostages by Iranian radicals.

Mr. Rafsanjani said in an inauguration speech that Iran planned to serve as a link between Central Asia and other countries in the region and become "a centre for economic cooperation."

"We plan to revive the ancient 'Silk Route' and establish a vast communications network between the region's

countries," he said.

Iranian Trade Minister Yahya Al Eshagh said Iran attached "great importance" to foreign trade, notably with Islamic and neighbouring countries.

Some 2,000 companies from 51 countries are participating in the exhibition, which is scheduled to run until Oct. 12.

But foreign participation, particularly by industrial countries, was markedly lower this year, due to the financial crisis facing the Iranian government in the past 12 months.

Asian countries were not very visible, citing delayed payments of debts by Iranian companies.

An official from Japan's Export Promotion Centre told AFP no private Japanese companies had signed up for the fair and that the centre was only setting up information booths.

South Korea is attending with five companies against 12 last year. The Daewoo Corporation exhibited household appliances and the firm Kumho displayed tyres.

A Korean official said many of his country's firms stayed away because of the delay in repayment of money Iranian firms owed them.

Hizbollah will 'never recognise Israel'

BEIRUT (AFP) — Hizbollah will never recognise Israel because the Jewish state represents a "constant danger" to the Middle East, the armed fundamentalist faction's secretary general warned here Saturday.

Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah told AFP that his pro-Iranian movement "will never recognise Israel even if the rest of the world does because Israel poses a constant danger to the entire region."

"Our position is immutable. Israel is a foreign presence imposed on the region by force," Sheikh Nasrallah added.

"Instead of war, Israel (now) wants to use the economy to gain control of all the region's resources, notably oil and water," he said.

He warned that if peace were "imposed" on the region, "famine, economic crises (and) conflicts between the (region's) countries" would result.

Hizbollah opposes the Middle East peace process and described as a "trap" last month's historic accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation on limited Palestinian autonomy in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The movement's chief stressed that Israel had to withdraw unconditionally from southern Lebanon and that militiamen of the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army "must be tried for treason."

"While one square metre of Lebanese territory is occupied we will continue to resist," Sheikh Nasrallah added.

Israel, which occupies a 1,000 square-kilometre "security zone" in southern Lebanon, has made its withdrawal from the area conditional on a cessation of mainly Hizbollah hostilities against its forces.

Seven Nigerian and three Italian soldiers were killed near the pasta factory in a region where U.N. forces operate only by helicopter.

Mr. Stockwell said eight helicopters, including five Cobras, had taken part in the operation during which three Tow missiles were fired.

"A Cobra launched the first



ISRAELI VIOLENCE: A Palestinian youth carries a 65-year-old woman, shot in her leg by Israeli troops during clashes in the Bureij refugee camp Sunday. Clashes erupted in the camp after Israeli forces killed two Palestinians belonging to the armed wing of the Islamic movement Hamas during a massive sweep Saturday (AFP photo)

U.S. missile misfires in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AFP) — A Tow missile fired by the U.S. Quick Reaction Force from a Cobra helicopter misfired and hit a civilian district, a U.N. military spokesman said.

Major David Stockwell told journalists the target had been a reinforced building of a disused pasta factory, not a cigarette factory as reported earlier, in which "there were anti-air guns."

Somali witnesses said at least seven people were killed and named some of them, but there were no visible corpses.

Maj. Stockwell said the helicopters returned later but did not observe loss of civilian life although they had seen a fire and people trying to put it out.

"If there are civilian victims it is regrettable," he said.

Seven Nigerian and three Italian soldiers were killed near the pasta factory in a region where U.N. forces operate only by helicopter.

Mr. Stockwell said eight helicopters, including five Cobras, had taken part in the operation during which three Tow missiles were fired.

"A Cobra launched the first

missile, another missile malfunctioned" and the pilot tried to deviate it so that it would hit open ground, he said.

The disused factory, in a zone controlled by warlord Mohammed Farah Aided's Somali National Alliance, is on the October 21 Road, four kilometres from the disused cigarette factory which was searched Saturday in a vast dawn operation.

More than 650 U.N. troops carried out the major sweep through southern Mogadishu in a hunt for weapons held by followers of Gen. Aided, Captain Tim McDavitt said.

He said the 90-minute operation was centred around the city's port, airport and the cigarette factory near where U.N. patrols had clashed on several occasions with followers of Gen. Aided.

The operation, backed by two U.S. combat helicopters, involved 100 Pakistani troops, 100 Egyptians, 200 Malaysians, 160 Bangladeshis and 100 soldiers from the United Arab Emirates, he said.

Capt. McDavitt said at least two missiles were found. He

said a fuller list of seized weapons would be released later.

Meanwhile, the U.N. special envoy to Somalia, retired U.S. Admiral Jonathan T. Howe, went to the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa where he met President Abeto Meles Zenawi to discuss the situation in Somalia, U.N. spokesman Faruk Mawlawi said.

He said Adm. Howe had also met with foreign affairs officials and representatives of the Organisation of African Unity and some of its member states who have sent troops to Somalia.

U.S. announces aid

The United States plans to provide \$25 million in material assistance to Somalia and another \$2 million in cash through the United Nations to help rebuild the Somali justice system, the White House said.

President Bill Clinton has ordered that supplies from Pentagon stocks be distributed to U.N. peacekeepers in Somalia to help establish prisons, reconstitute a police force and other law enforcement needs, the White House said.

Syrian-Israeli progress in sight, Musa reports

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa has said that the deadlock in vital peace talks between Israel and Syria could soon be broken.

Mr. Musa, speaking on his return from attending the opening of the U.N. General Assembly session in New York, said there was "a good chance of progress on the Syrian-Israeli front."

He said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa would go to Washington on Monday to hold "high level talks with the American administration aimed at getting the (Syrian-Israeli) negotiations going."

There were "intensive efforts on the international and regional level to achieve this goal," he said.

Syria, a key participant in the Middle East peace talks with Israel, is demanding an Israeli withdrawal from the strategic Golan Heights, seized in 1967, in exchange for peace.

Syrian peace with the Jewish state is considered to be vital for the success of the autonomy deal signed Sept. 13 by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Egyptian officials said Mr. Musa was to travel back to Washington in the second half of October for talks on the Middle East with President Bill Clinton.

Lebanon-Syria coordination

In Zahle, Lebanon, President Elias Hrawi said Saturday Lebanon and Syria would continue coordinating closely in the peace talks with Israel to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

Nine people were killed last month when Lebanese troops fired at a Hizbollah (Party of God) rally protesting the signing of a peace pact between Israel and the Palestinians.

"We entered the negotiations together and together we strive to regain our rights and dignity," Mr. Hrawi said in a speech.

Lebanon and Syria "will work together to achieve a just and comprehensive peace," added Mr. Hrawi, who on Friday held talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Syria is the main foreign power broker in Lebanon, where 15 years of civil war ended in 1990.

Beirut newspapers reported on Saturday that a U.S.-Israeli proposal seeking early progress towards peace between Israel and Lebanon was made this week to Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri in New York.

The proposal, dubbed by the papers the "Lebanon first" option, calls for a joint Lebanese-Israeli military committee to discuss a timetable for an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon and security arrangements for the border.

Mr. Hrawi, speaking at a ceremony to lay the foundation stone for a hospital in eastern Lebanon, called on the Lebanese to back their government at the peace talks.

Several Lebanese groups oppose the Arab-Israeli peace talks, among those, the militant pro-Iranian Hizbollah is the most vocal and is waging a guerrilla war to chase Israeli troops out of a so-called "security zone" they occupy in South Lebanon.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Bashir invites Carter to broker peace in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter has accepted an invitation by Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir to resume his good offices between the government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), a government official announced. The invitation was extended in a message delivered to Mr. Carter in New York Thursday by the director of the political department in the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, Mehdi Ibrahim, said Ali Al Haj Mohammad, minister at the federal chamber and government spokesman for peace talks with the SPLA. A date for Mr. Carter's visit to Sudan is to be set later. The message also dealt with Mr. Carter's earlier peace bids in Nairobi in December 1989 and with Sudanese-U.S. relations, the Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) quoted the official as saying in a statement.

Israeli Druze leader dies

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The religious leader of Israel's 70,000 strong Druze community died overnight at the age of 95, Israel radio announced Sunday. Sheikh Amin Taref, who took over the role from his father in 1928, died in his home village of Julis in the Galilee region, where the Druze are concentrated in Israel. He leaves no male heir to the position of spiritual chief of the Druze, a secretive sect founded in a 10th-century breakaway from Shiism. The sheikh won the Israel Prize in 1990, the country's highest cultural honour. While the Israeli Druze serve in the army, another 15,000 Druze live on the occupied Golan Heights and remain loyal to Syria.

Over 42 tonnes of drugs seized in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Authorities here have seized more than 42 tonnes of drugs in the past six months, Iranian state radio said Saturday. Citing a statement by the security forces, it said the record haul was a sharp rise, as authorities had seized 53.8 tonnes for all of 1992. It said the drugs included opium, heroin, and opium extracts hauled from the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan, Khorassan in the east, Yazd and Esfahan in the centre as well as Gorgan in the northeast. The radio also reported that 32,458 people "linked to the drug trade" were arrested during the six months period ending Sept. 22.

UAE minister sues British engineer

LONDON (R) — A leading member of the ruling family of Dubai is suing a British engineer, alleging fraud over prestige contracts in the emirate, the Observer newspaper reported Sunday. The Observer said United Arab Emirates Defence Minister Sheikh Mohammed Ben Rashid Al Maktoum had, with the Dubai government itself, lodged a writ in the British high court claiming damages from an engineer who had handled a number of major projects. The newspaper quoted the writ as seeking damages for "fraud and/or deceit and/or conspiracy to defraud." It said the document also sought repayment of "all bribes and/or commissions" and "an account of all secret profits."

EC to debate Mideast, Yugoslavia peace efforts

LUXEMBOURG (R) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers will debate on Monday with varying degrees of hopefulness what they can do to improve peace prospects in the Middle East, South Africa and former Yugoslavia.

During a long and varied agenda, the ministers will also discuss at a regular monthly meeting progress in the GATT Uruguay round of world trade talks.

Mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg will brief ministers on events in former Yugoslavia following the Bosnian parliament's rejection of the latest peace plan last week on the grounds it let Bosnian Serbs keep too much conquered land.

Foreign Minister Willy Claes of Belgium, which holds the EC's rotating presidency, confessed on Friday to being close to despair over the Bosnian developments.

The ministers may possibly decide to make a formal request to the Western European Union to examine whether it could provide a police force for a sliding programme of EC aid to accompany South Africa's progress toward full democracy.

The commission has suggested fresh EC aid to prepare for elections due next April, plus more economic links with the prospect of a formal cooperation agreement after the poll.

Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan will report on his talks in Washington last week with U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor. But diplomats said he would have little new to say on a November 1992 U.S.-EC deal curbing subsidised farm exports.

Egypt uncovers pharaonic 'road of war' in Sinai

CAIRO (R) — Archaeologists racing to excavate land in the path of a planned canal in Egypt have found the Horus road of war, a route used by pharaonic armies marching across the Sinai deserts to the Near East, officials said.

Egyptian Antiquities Organisation (EAO) officials said Saturday that another site found near Tel Hassan Daoud in the eastern Nile Delta dated back before the pharaonic era began in 3200 B.C. and was one of the largest of its kind.

Archaeologists uncovered the Horus road during excavations along the future path of the Suez Canal, EAO Chairman Abdul Halim Nouredine said in a statement.

The canal is an ambitious project intended to carry water from the Nile River eastwards into the arid, empty Sinai Peninsula and settle millions of Egyptians there.

Mr. Nouredine said excavators also uncovered a fortified town, dating back to the reign of Pharaoh Seti I around 1300 B.C., near the modern town of East Qantara on the Suez Canal.

The fort, 400 metres long by about 200 metres wide, is the largest discovered intact, he added. It lies about 24 kilometres east of the Suez Canal.

"It was the starting point for Egyptian armies heading east. From it, we can map out the Horus road of war that used to link Egypt and Palestine," Mr.

Nouredine said, Horus was the ancient Egyptian god of the sun.

In their 3,000-year history, Egypt's pharaohs often ventured across Sinai to fight Hittites and other civilisations in the area now covered by Israel, the occupied Palestinian territories, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Iraq.

Ramesses II, a great commander famous for building the spectacular Abu Simbel Temple in southern Egypt, was nearly killed in one such battle at Kadesh, in what is now Syria, in about 1280 B.C.

EAO officials said the pre-pharaonic find at Tel Hassan Daoud, between the eastern Nile Delta towns of Ismailia and Zagazig, included 514 tombs, many with full skeletons, as well as pottery, jewellery and brass hooks used for fishing.

There were also graves for animals including one for a cow representing the goddess Hathor. One tomb contained both a cow and a man, prefiguring later pharaohs such as Amenhotep II and Queen Hatshepsut, who were portrayed suckling cows.

Mr. Nouredine has recommended that a museum be built in the Suez Canal area to house remains now being dug up. As well as pharaonic remains, Greek, Roman and early Christian ruins are being discovered, he told Reuters recently.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Les Aventures de L'Espace
18:00 Onnices
18:30 Maguy
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Delta
21:10 The House of Eliott
22:00 News in English
22:30 Le Gerfaut

PRAYER TIMES

04:10 Fair
04:25 (Sunrise) Dubai
11:25 Dhahur
14:46 Asr
17:22 Maghreb
18:39 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swireh.
Tel. 510740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
623785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637431
De la Salette Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 623266
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel.
628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel.
625250
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
824328
German-speaking Evangelical Con-
gregation Tel. 661195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824,
654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

Min./Max. temp.
14/27
Agaba 21/35
Desert 12/30
Jordan Valley 19/33
Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-
man 29, Agaba 33 Humidity readings:
Amman 32 per cent, Agaba 32 per
cent.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.
Fine weather conditions will prevail
with clouds appearing at low altitudes
and winds will be westerly moderate.
In Agaba, winds will be northerly
moderate and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Youssef Sammour 615648
Dr. Team Al Asmar 890504
Dr. Farouq Nouf 786680
Dr. Bahjat Bader 649362
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 623472
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Fawaz pharmacy 644945
Shmiciani pharmacy 637660
Nairookh pharmacy 623472
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mohammad Al Hilu 729773
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Fawwaz Hamdallah 903644
Khalilieh pharmacy 854617

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 641111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 896391
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605801
Price Complaints 641176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 767111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 641101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Akilieh Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jahal Amman Maternity 642362
Mollas, J. Amman 634140
Palestine, Shmiciani 66417114
Shmiciani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645845
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdali 66617151
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7710103
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 89161115
Army, Marka 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Modern Hospital (09)999090
Al Husna Modern Hospital (09)987322

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)72555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)7225
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)347100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)5320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 Sanaa (RJ)
08:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:00 Jordan (RJ)
09:15 Moscow (RJ)
09:15 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)
09:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:35 Beirut (RJ)

DEPARTURES	MARKET PRICES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 06:00 Beirut (RJ) 11:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ) 12:15 London (RJ) 12:25 Frankfurt (RJ) 12:45 Cairo (RJ) 12:50 Moscow (RJ) 20:30 Dhahran (RJ) 20:30 Dubai, Karachi (RJ) 20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 20:45 Damascus (RJ) 21:30 Abu Dhabi Muscat (RJ)	Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Apple 800/600 Banana 600/400 Beans (Makassar) 600/400 Beans 150/100 Carrot 400/200 Cauliflower 350/250 Cucumbers (large) 300/100 Cucumbers (small) 300/100 Eggplant 280/200 Figs 280/180 Garlic 1000/900 Grapes 380/300 Lemon 220/140 Marrow (large) 240/140 Marrow (small) 440/430 Mushrooms 280/200 Onion (dry) 1200/900 Pepper (hot) 280/200 Pepper (sweet) 280/200 Potato 450/350 Tomato 1200/800 Sweet melon 300/200

'Displaced' persons may return, but questions remain on where and how

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — On October 13, 1993, a joint Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel standing committee will begin to decide on procedures for the return of 1967 displaced persons, or so says the peace timetable as forwarded by the Gaza-Jericho first plan.

Thus far it has not been made clear by either the PLO or the Israeli government exactly who is a 1967 displaced person and how his/her repatriation will be effected.

According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), some 240,000 Palestinians native to the territories occupied by Israel after the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war were displaced to Jordan. These people are officially considered "displaced" rather than refugees, since the territories in question were under Jordanian rule and thus the people were not made refugees from one country to another, but were internally displaced.

In contrast, 1967 refugees are those Palestinians who fled their homes in what became the state of Israel in 1948. Most of these people lived from 1948 to 1967 in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. The became homeless a second time in 1967 when they crossed the Jordan River and took refuge in the Kingdom.

UNRWA registered some 150,000 such two-time refugees in Jordan in 1967.

Therefore about 390,000 Palestinians fled to Jordan in 1967 as a result of the war.

Some PLO officials already fear that the difference in terminology may be used at some point by Israeli officials to "change their minds on who goes back and who does not."

The Oslo Accord or PLO-Israel Declaration of Principles says in Article XII, "the arrangements will include the constitution of a standing committee that will decide by agreement on the modalities of admission of persons displaced from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967, together with necessary measures to prevent disruption and disorder."

This standing committee according to Article XII will liaise with the governments of Jordan and Egypt.

For many political observers the article is vague at best. While PLO officials are not saying who exactly can go back, what repatriation system will be used and what the timetable is for repatriation, they are slowly but surely trying to clarify some points of confusion.

The PLO officials say that Palestinians, be they in Jordan or elsewhere, who fled the occupied territories in 1967 and are stateless, in that they do not carry the nationality of any country, are likely to get "priority status."

According to PLO officials there are "at least" 250,000 Palestinians residing in Jordan with "at least" another



A United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) official assists Palestinian women in one of several centres established

to provide various services to refugees and displaced persons (file photo)

150,000 residing in Syria.

"The stateless people in Jordan, or those with two-year Jordanian passports or refugee travel documents, who fled in 1967, will be given special consideration and may even get priority," said a senior PLO official on a visit to Amman earlier this week.

Carefully choosing his words in order to avoid "giving hope to too many," the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said "the people who are here on temporary passports and travel permits have priority over others." According to the PLO official, up to 250,000 Palestinians in Jordan have

temporary or two-year passports. The Jordan Times was not able to obtain a confirmation of this figure from the Jordanian ministers involved.

Thus far no clarifications as to the qualifying factors for early return have been announced by the PLO or Israel.

any foreign labourer in the country. About 70,000 — 100,000 of the quarter million Palestinians concerned are from the Gaza Strip. They were given Jordanian travel documents or two-year passports after the 1988 decision to disengage from the West Bank. Previously they held Egyptian travel documents which they would renew through the Egyptian Embassy in Amman.

But despite the hopes of the PLO that the 250,000 Palestinians with temporary Jordanian travel permits will be able to return to the autonomous regions in the occupied territories, their status remains in "limbo."

"We are here and we are living relatively well," said Um Zaki, 48, a displaced person from Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip who has made the Baga'a refugee camp her home for the last 25 years.

"We have no house in Khan Yunis ... at least we have one here," said the mother of twelve.

Her son Ziad, disturbed by his mother's complacency said: "No, we want to go back to Gaza — we will welcome it — if they tell us to go back tomorrow we will."

The difference of opinion between parent and child in this Gaza family, who has lived for 25 years in Jordan on first Egyptian then Jordanian travel permits, is a reflection of the wider displaced persons' scene in Jordan.

"I like the security here,"

says Um Zaki. But her sons argue that as non-citizens they are not allowed to own land, property, or open their own business, and such living conditions are not conducive to staying on in the long term, they maintain.

"The first chance we have to return, we will do so ... because that is our only hope of citizenship and national independence," said Zaki, 32.

At the Land Registration Office in the Amman suburb of Wadi Seer, three Gazans, dealing in sports garments registered their shops in the names of friends because, as one official explained, "they are not Jordanians, they have two-year passports ... in order to own a shop they need to register it in the name of a Jordanian citizen."

Many displaced Palestinians in Jordan are business people who have registered their businesses in the names of Jordanian nationals, said the official. "I have personally registered some 100 businesses of this sort," he added.

These Palestinians have economic interests which would encourage them to stay in Jordan even if they were allowed to return to Gaza or Jericho, explained Ziad.

"Economic interests will make a lot of difference — if they make it economically interesting in the autonomous regions, a lot of people will go back — if not, many will prefer to stay in Jordan," he said.

Jordan to celebrate Arab Child Day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will join the Arab and International Community Monday in celebrating the Arab Child Day and International Day of the Child which has chosen "the school and a better future for children," as the theme of its commemoration.

Celebrations will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. The week-long celebrations will include lectures, competitions, book exhibitions, recreational trips and a free medical day during which doctors will examine children free of charge at the various social development centres in the Kingdom according to Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sogor.

In 1984, the Cabinet adopted a resolution by the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, stipulating that the International Day of the Child would be observed in the Arab World as well. Since then the first Monday of October every year would be commemorated as the Arab Child Day.

The same year, the cabinet also adopted the charter of the rights of the Arab Child as an official charter binding to Jordan.



Jordanian school girls rush home after classes in Jabal Amman (Staff photo by Aynsley Floyd)

On Sept. 30, 1990 Queen Noor deputised for His Majesty King Hussein in attending the New York World Summit for Children, attended by world leaders, and endorsed the summit declaration.

Jordan also ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, as an expression of Jordan's commitment to improving the health and welfare of children.

The Kingdom has succeeded over the past decade in bringing infant mortality rates down to 37 per 1,000 live births from 70 in 1981.

Jordan also reduced illiteracy rates from 28 per cent in 1981 per cent by 1990.

4,000 housing units under way — HUDD

World Habitat Day is devoted to women in shelter development

AMMAN (J.T.) — In activating the National Housing Strategy to meet the actual needs of the population, the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) is building 4,000 housing units, according to Youssef Hiyasat, director general of HUDD.

The project is worth JD 30 million, said Mr. Hiyasat on the eve of World Habitat Day Monday.

Since its establishment, the department has built 30,000 housing units in 100 housing schemes, valued at JD 250 million and housing 200,000 citizens, said Mr. Hiyasat.

All the housing projects executed by HUDD, he added, are supplied with the basic infrastructure and services.

The housing units under construction are a JD 5 million project in Beit Ras in Irbid governorate, a JD 6 million project in Zarqa, a JD 2.5 million project in Salt, a JD 3.5 million in Ain Basha in Balqa governorate, and a JD 2.5 million project to develop the old districts of the port city of Aqaba, said the HUDD chief.

Housing projects in Marka, Manarah and Mustanidah are also being built, said Mr. Hiyasat.

World Habitat Day

Habitat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements today marks World Habitat Day. On the occasion, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said this year's theme, "Women in Shelter Development," highlights the plight of hundreds of millions of women living in communities without basic housing, amenities and services.

"Women's commitment to their children, their homes and their communities has been central to the survival and social development of people in all cultures and societies. It is time to recognise and facilitate their contribution by taking practical steps to eliminate all vestiges of discrimination and

inequality, such as legal and social restrictions on their access to land and to credit, which hinder their full and equal participation in the development of human settlements," said Dr. Ghali.

Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Under-Secretary-General of Habitat, said in her message on the occasion that "down through the ages and in all cultures women have been — sometimes literally — the homemakers. It is they who bear children and bear the burden of taking care of them. Thus the creation of a home, a shelter for the elements and a base for the family, has been primarily the women's responsibility."

"Women are also central to the functioning of their communities whether a village or an urban settlement. Women do most of the work needed to keep their communities clean, convivial and safe. This is often hard and difficult, especially in poor urban settlements."

"Yet when it comes to determining settlements policies, planning settlements and designing housing programmes women are hardly consulted. Thus their needs are unmet."

"National governments, non-governmental organisations, donor agencies and international organisations need to respond now to the situation and needs of women. Only this will ensure that housing projects are more people friendly and take into account the requirements of women as well as men, girls as well as boys."

In planning "better shelter and hence better communities," Mrs. Dowdeswell had the following suggestions:

- Remove legal barriers to housing for women
- Inform women of their rights
- Increase credit to the poor, particularly women
- Involve women at all levels of decision-making, and
- Provide relevant training so that they may participate in such decision-making.

Income tax revenues are up

AMMAN (Petra) — The Income Tax Department last September collected JD7,563,209 from taxpayers, compared with JD6,170,073 collected in September last year, according to Department Director Mansour Haddadin.

He said that the department collected JD98,281,396 since the beginning of 1993.

Mr. Haddadin added that the department expects to collect a total of JD120 million by the end of the year.

Tourism on the rise

The numbers of European and American tourists who visited Jordan last year increased by 116.4 per cent and 68.4 per cent respectively over 1991 figures, according to the latest issue of the Economist magazine.

Issued by the Federation of Jordanian Chamber of Commerce, the Economist said the increase had resulted in an increase in tourism revenues. The magazine said the tourism income totalled JD314.3 million, representing an increase of 45.5 per cent over 1991.



ELECTION PREPARATIONS: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday meets with officials of the Executive Council of Amman. At the meeting Dr. Majali said the Election Law will be enforced to the letter during the coming parliamentary elections scheduled for Nov. 8, and the government will adhere strictly to its provisions and terms. No public institution will be allowed to serve as a centre for electioneering, added the prime minister (Petra photo)

Visiting World Food Programme official to assess highlands development project

AMMAN (J.T.) — The World Food Programme (WFP) strives to maintain and finance land reclamation and highlands development schemes in the Kingdom, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, according to Bodo Henze, head of a visiting WFP technical team.

Speaking after a meeting with Minister of Agriculture, Marwan Kamal, Mr. Henze said that during his three-week visit to Jordan he and his colleagues will assess the progress of the WFP-financed project which is now in its third year.

He said his team will study with the Ministry of Agriculture the prospect of increasing allocations for the programme

in Jordan and will introduce some changes aimed at yielding better results. Mr. Henze said he will meet farmers involved in the development projects in the areas of Irbid, Ajloun, Kura, Zarqa, Ma'an, Tafleh, Karak and Salt.

The highland development programme, initiated in cooperation with the ministry of agriculture, aims at assisting the Kingdom in developing this agricultural region, according to ministry officials.

Referring to the nature of WFP assistance in this programme, Mr. Henze said WFP provides food, labour expertise and equipment to people farming their own land.

So far 60 per cent of the 150,000 dunums of land included in the five-year project has been developed according to plan, said Mr. Henze.

A total of 7,500 landowners will benefit from the land development scheme, he added.

Dr. Kamal told Mr. Henze and his team that the highlands development project was one of the most important to small farmers.

The government is eager to fully implement the project which entails planting fruit trees on the largest possible scale and reclaiming highlands areas in order to increase food production, said the minister during the meeting.

3rd industrial city to go up

AMMAN (Petra) — In view of the growing demand for industrial space, the Jordanian Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) has appropriated a 210-dunum plot in the Balqa governorate for the establishment of a third industrial city after the Sahab and Al Hassan industrial cities of the Amman and Irbid area.

JIEC Director General Fayez Suheimat said that work on the Balqa site near Salt is expected to start early next year after the designs have been completed.

In order to encourage industry in other governorates, said Dr. Suheimat, the corporation plans to set up additional sites in the governorates of Karak, Tafleh Ma'an, Aqaba, as well as in the Jordan Valley.

With increasing demands on the Sahab Industrial City, the JIEC is studying the possibility

of buying additional lands adjacent to the project within the Greater Amman region, said Dr. Suheimat.

He said that since the establishment of the JIEC in 1980 to mid-August 1993, 301 medium and small-size industries were set up at the Sahab project with an overall capital of JD 201 million.

These projects, he said, have created 9,000 jobs.

Dr. Suheimat said these manufacturers produce electric appliances, chemicals, plastics, food stuffs, textiles, furniture, kitchens, tissue paper, pharmaceuticals, leather and construction materials.

Almost 60 per cent of these projects export their products, added Dr. Suheimat.

He said that Jordan's laws on encouraging investments helped bring 45 industrial

schemes to Sahab from Arab and foreign countries or through joint investments with Jordanian business persons.

Dr. Suheimat said the JIEC is keen on providing not only the infrastructure for its industrial cities, but is also providing the required services to facilitate production.

He said that because of repeated complaints about water supply shortages at Sahab, the JIEC has appropriated an artesian well in an adjacent area to provide additional water supplies to the industrial city.

Referring to the Hassan industrial city near Irbid, Dr. Suheimat said that JIEC has issued licences for 40 projects with an overall capital of JD 27 million.

He said increasing demand there prompted the corporation to expand the facilities by another 13,000 square metres.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ali Al Mi'mar at the Orfali Art Gallery. Telephone 826932.
- ★ Photographic exhibition on nature and the township of Sahab by artist Ghassan 'Ayanasrah at the Student Affairs Department at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Exhibition of etchings by Mohammad Omar Khalil at Darat Al Fuman of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lawleh. Also showing the permanent exhibition. Telephone 643251/2.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by artist Hussein Danesh at the Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Caricature drawings exhibition by artists Mustafa Al Wawi and Ali Tabash at the University of Jordan's Student Affairs Department.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings and old manuscripts at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Painting exhibition by artist Fateh Mondarres at the Balatna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Eastern Dancing — Entertainment in Spare Time" by Stigrid Bensemann at Goethe Institute.
- ★ The First International Festival of Fine Arts in Jordan entitled "Colour and Light in the Nabatean Civilization" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in Jordan.

DRAMAS

- ★ Children's drama entitled "Aladdin's Lamp" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 1:00 a.m.
- ★ Folklore drama entitled "The Season" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "Le Dernier Milliardaire" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

BOOK EXHIBITION

- ★ Comprehensive book and educational aids exhibition at the International Exhibition Hall - University Road.



In'am Mufti

NHF head leaves for meeting in Italy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Noor Al Hussein Foundation President In'am Mufti left for Italy Sunday to attend the special working group meeting to develop a proposal for the Brussels meetings on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women which will be held in 1994. Mrs. Mufti will also attend the regular third meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC) representatives which will make the final preparations for the Brussels meeting. She will brief these meetings on the activities sponsored by Her Majesty Queen Noor, as a member of the ISC, in response to the Geneva Declaration and mechanisms of its implementation in Jordan.

Jordan Times

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'Right' does not mean rights

THE RENEGING by Bosnian Serbs on their earlier agreement to offer the Bosnian Muslims some territorial compromise came on the heels of a similar move by the Croats a few days ago. These two developments were attributed to the Bosnian Muslim parliament's rejection of the international peace plan dividing Bosnia into three ethnic states. With the benefit of hindsight, the scene in Bosnia has an eerie feeling of what happened in Palestine since the forties up to this point in time. It will be remembered that the Palestinian Arabs constituting as they were the majority of their country's population were driven by their deep conviction that "right" could be translated into "might" no matter how long and difficult the process was. The Palestinians now, after several decades of bitter struggle against great regional and international odds, ended up yielding to a mere "Gaza-Jericho first" deal that may or may not satisfy even their minimum needs.

With this in mind, it is difficult not to imagine the Bosnian tragedy as some sort of *deja vu* situation, where Bosnian Muslim content to rely on the righteousness of their cause will prove equal to that of the Palestinians and the Arabs many years ago.

Needless to say that, morally and legally, the Bosnian Muslims are totally in the right to refuse to allow the Serbs and Croats the fruits of their ethnic-cleansing and aggression on the solid international foundation that forbids the acquisition of territory by force. Such has been the foundation of the Arab diplomatic and legal battle against Israeli occupation and annexation of their ancestral lands. Yet, we all live in an imperfect world where "right" does not lead to rights.

In other parts of the world, the experience may have been different where indeed right was translated into might on the ground. A living example of this was the war in Vietnam where the weaker side was able to triumph over the stronger party by sheer determination and raw political and military will. In the case of Bosnia, it would appear to fit in perfectly with the experience of Palestine where precipitous rejection of the partition plan might lead to one catastrophe after the other.

The Bosnian Muslims should heed the experience of the Palestinians by comprehending the limitations of being "right" in a region of the world where the odds are obviously on the side of the stronger party. The Bosnian Muslim people have suffered enough already and cannot be expected to endure much more, especially with winter fast approaching. A more balanced and pragmatic course should be anticipated from the Muslims' leadership by trying to resurrect the defunct peace plan orchestrated by the international community through the U.N. and EC mediators, with some modifications if possible.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Sunday commented on His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's warning against a shallow peace that does not tackle the actual problems of the Middle East region. Any peace that does not take into account the basic issues and fulfils the aspirations of the people of the Middle East is bound to fail, said the paper. The people of this region have the right to a peaceful progressive life and have the right to tranquility and to dignity. Following four decades of sufferings and shouldering of burdens as a result of regional conflicts, said the paper. The task of establishing and protecting peace, said the paper, is not only the responsibility of the Arab side; Israel ought to respond to the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, demanded the paper. In his meetings in Washington, Prince Hassan has demanded true regional cooperation if peace is to endure and the interests of all parties are to be safeguarded, added the paper. Therefore, it said, peace is a common interest for all people and no single party should be allowed to make gains at the expense of other parties in this important process. The paper expressed hope that the United States and the world community at large will realise the facts on the ground and deal with them objectively and help all the people in this region enjoy an era of peace and prosperity.

THE PLO-Israeli agreement and the Jordanian-Palestinian agenda for talks do not contain the basic requirements for the establishment of real peace, said Mazen Hammad, a columnist in Al Dustour. The writer said that one should not expect peace to come overnight, after more than 50 years of conflict and while Arab lands remain under occupation. Lifting the Arab boycott against Israel is far too serious a step to be taken at a time when the Middle East has not yet tasted real peace as Crown Prince Hassan has stated in Washington, said the writer. The deals and the agreements can open the way for peace, but unless they are implemented on the ground, and unless the genuine needs of the Arab people are met, these agreements remain meaningless, added the writer. The Arabs have to find out first whether Israel has good intentions and whether its leaders are really bent on seeking a just and comprehensive peace with the Arab countries before taking steps towards ending the boycott, continued Hammad.

Weekly Political Pulse

Decisions and what lies behind them

THE casual announcement last week that general elections will be held after all on time was disappointing, given the intensity of the debate, deliberations and soul searching that were invested in the decision making. Much more was expected than a mere routine, muted declaration since everyone knew that the last minute switch to keeping parliamentary elections on track was not of the ordinary. Moreover, the ultimate position was preceded by a major national decision that was expected to be announced with much fanfare and buttressed by reasons and justifications and perhaps blessed by no less than His Majesty King Hussein himself.

The people, one would think, are entitled to comprehend the shift in stance on this vital issue. But in fact, Jordanians were not offered the slightest clue as to how one of the most controversial subjects was dealt with one way or another. It is a well-known fact that the pendulum in favour of holding the election as scheduled swung in place at the very last minute, if not seconds, since all indicators till that point in time strongly suggested that the verdict in support of a postponement of these elections was for all intents and purposes already taken at the highest level. The reservations and anxieties of the King about proceeding with elections under the new and perhaps revolutionary conditions in the region were so convincing that few people doubted where the Monarch stood on the issue.

So what really happened at the end that swung the pendulum the other way? The fact that the prime minister, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, was the instrument for the announcement rather than His Majesty the King implies that there was a deliberate effort to downgrade the decision a bit. It also suggests that the King may not have been too pleased with the final resolution of the issue, albeit it was necessary, since his reasonings and submissions on the eve of the decision necessitated an opposite move. The prime national television news bulletin treated the matter therefore as a rather routine item, occupying a mere third place on the list of important TV news items for that day. All in all, the stoic acceptance of factors that lead to the decision regarding elections suggests that the intuitive feelings of the leadership did not correspond to the rational or pragmatic or compromise reasoning that sealed the fate of the subject.

On the domestic level, there was really nothing that transpired over the last few days that would explain the apparent turnaround. The statesmen or elders of the country, including most of the former prime ministers, and the majority of political parties' leadership were tilting heavily towards the idea of delaying the elections. The former members of

Parliament may have also preferred such a course since it could have breathed new life into their defunct Parliament and revitalised their previous status and role. That leaves wide open the speculation that external factors may have reversed the tide in favour of postponement.

But what could these external developments that culminated in changing the domestic political spectrum over night have been? On the Jordanian-PLO level, there was really nothing that happened after the visit of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to Amman to patch up things, in the wake of his deal with the Israelis. True, several western countries were voicing concern about the direction of the decisions, in the country, regarding the issue, but such a foreign stance is not in the habit of making a difference the way the country moves into. In such domestic matters, the government does not tolerate interference by any side, even when well-intentioned. The mother of all secrets will remain in the heart and soul of the King and a select number of the executive branch of government, privy to the latest developments, share this privileged information.

Some people's imagination has gone too wild trying to read something, that most likely was not there, into the final decision. Some people went as far as to believe in the Israeli-spread rumour that His Majesty had received the Israeli prime minister at his palace in Aqaba and saw in such an imaginary encounter a possible clue to the subsequent decision. Of course, the rumour about the meeting was deliberately fanned by the Israeli press for Israel's own ulterior motives. As a matter of fact, there is nothing wrong in any such gatherings, if in fact they do occur. Amman lost a great deal of its initiative and ability to manoeuvre by playing shy in its dealing with Israel. Judging by the overwhelming welcome of the tripartite White House meeting Friday, Jordanians and the Arab Nation as a whole are sophisticated enough to understand that there is no more sense in clinging to a sterile style of diplomacy in dealing with our adversaries that is alien to the best of Arab and Islamic traditions. Islamic and Arab leaders throughout their golden days never developed a complex about meeting their enemies out in the open. It is only the recent Arab weaknesses that deprived the Arab Nation of its confidence to engage its foes directly.

But this is not the main issue here. Whether there were in fact external factors or internal ones that led to the decision to respect the original date for holding the national elections, the central concern of the Jordanians remains the fact that they were effectively denied an opportunity to appreciate the basis for such a settlement of the subject.

By Waleed Sadi

Arab, Jewish Americans mobilise support for Israel-PLO accord

By Rosalind
Mandine Murphy

WASHINGTON — Arab Americans and Jewish Americans are wasting no time in taking up the challenge of promoting economic development in the West Bank and Gaza in support of the Israel-PLO accord.

The challenge was made by President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore at an unprecedented meeting with the leaders of both communities at the White House just hours after the signing of the accord Sept. 13.

On Sept. 20, Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced a proposal to appoint a task force of Jewish and Arab Americans to help develop joint projects and promote private investment in the region.

The two communities, however, are not waiting for an official task force to get started on their work. The very night of the accord signing, the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA) and the American Jewish Congress (AJC) announced their intention to work together to mobilise their communities' support.

Noting that the accord has created an atmosphere of cooperation, Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said the two communities are now constructing "a new edifice of peace."

Khalil Jahshan, executive director of the NAAA, said: "It is amazing as to the speed with which this agreement changed how people interact in our respective communities." NAAA and the AJC are now working to "identify specific projects and specific resources to mobilise," Mr. Jahshan said. He indicated that both groups have met with officials at the White House, State Department, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and have invited experts from the region "to give practical dimensions" to their ideas.

Proposed joint projects cover such areas as helping small businesses in Gaza, developing a loan programme, promoting free enterprise practices, addressing specific health needs and promoting human rights and democracy education, he said.

Galvanising public support for the peace process — in the Arab-American and Jewish-American communities and the U.S. Congress — is an important element to moving forward with these efforts, leaders of both communities point out.

As a lobbying organisation, NAAA is working "to make sure there is enough public support" and "to alleviate congressional apprehensions," Mr. Jahshan said.

He said NAAA has been successful, albeit not in everything. The organisation had hoped for a U.S. pledge of \$250 million in economic aid for the Palestinians over one year, while the amount pledged was over two years. NAAA also lobbied Congress for a blanket removal of legislation that prohibits U.S. contacts with the PLO, instead of the temporary removal the Senate has approved. However, he added, NAAA "will continue to work on this" issue.

The AJC is working to promote support for the accord in its own community and in the broader American public through educational programmes and contacts with the media. Mark Pelavin, Washington representative for the organisation, said.

Economic stability in the region and economic development for the Palestinians are key to the success of the peace process, Arab American and Jewish leaders say. To that end, much of their efforts are focused on promoting private investment and lobbying for official aid to the Palestinians.

"The objective right now is to begin to get the attention of American companies to look at the new Palestinian identity," Fuad Sahouri, chairman of the Arab-American Business and Professional Association, said. To this end, AABPA has established a Palestinian-American Chamber of Commerce, sponsored trade delegations and conferences and identified specific Palestinian businesses to promote, he added.

Noting that the public

private sector needs in the West Bank and Gaza are "tremendous," Mr. Sahouri said he hopes "American companies will be on the ground floor" to fill these needs. The Palestinians need "everything" — from educational institutions, hospitals, official ministries, fire and police departments to setting up insurance and banking systems — he noted.

AABPA facilitated a meeting between Jewish American and Arab American business leaders and a visiting Palestinian trade delegation in mid-September to explore filling these many needs, Mr. Sahouri reported.

The objective of the meeting, he said, was to "try to identify a collective, positive contribution to the Palestinians." The spirited discussion ranged from ideas on housing and job creation to U.S. investment, he said.

Commenting on AABPA's working relationship with Jewish organisations and business leaders, Mr. Sahouri said: "It is great to bring both communities together for the sake of peace and stability."

Now, he added, both communities "need to deliver something concrete to the Palestinians." Noting that there is a 60 per cent rate of unemployment in Gaza, Mr. Sahouri asked: "How do you bring it down to acceptable levels?" These are the kind of questions both communities must address, he said.

Jewish organisations, too, have pledged to lobby Congress for increased aid for the Palestinians and raise private sector funds for economic development in the West Bank and Gaza — an extraordinary development created by the new atmosphere of cooperation.

"I've been a supporter of economic development and I think it should be both public and private initiatives at this point because there are real opportunities for peace," Lester Pollack, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Jewish Organisations, said.

Mr. Pollack said his organisation can "provide some catalytic action" to promote this economic development and will work "to achieve a consensus" within the Jewish community on this issue.

"It's absolutely obligatory to grasp the opportunity that's been offered and to move forward. The communities' leadership is united in virtually full support for this," Steve Grossman, president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), told the Washington Times.

AIPAC will support the international effort to raise funds for the West Bank and Gaza as well as support congressional legislation on U.S. aid for the Palestinians, according to the Washington Times report.

Both Jewish and Arab American leaders caution, however, that while their communities' commitment to the peace process is great, their resources to raise the levels of investment capital needed in the West Bank and Gaza are limited.

"There are some things we can do that are very important," such as mobilise public support and facilitate private sector initiative, Mark Pelavin said.

However, he added, "it is wrong to over-emphasise the role our communities can play. The states and international organisations who attended the Oct. 1 donor conference are the ones who can come up with most of the resources."

"Our role is a supporting one, not a leading one," Mr. Pelavin said.

"The private sector should be involved and there is room for the public at large," Khalil Jahshan said. However, he added, "it is important to not allow (governments) to try to substitute for what they should be doing."

The economic needs in the West Bank and Gaza are so great, Arab American and Jewish economic projects "are not even registering on the radar," Mr. Jahshan said. However, he added, "I am sure our efforts will be appreciated" — United States Information Agency.



Profiles in Courage

It must be made to work

Following is an editorial that appeared in the Sept. 24, 1993, issue of the London-based Middle East International

AFTER all the astonishment that it ever happened, the key question now is will the agreement between Israel and the PLO work? Because for all the flaws contained in the Declaration of Principles, and for all the legitimate objections on the Arab side to the way the deal was struck, it is all there is. The consequences of its collapse in the near future will surely be much worse than if the two parties get it off the ground only to see it founder in years to come on the rocks of final status negotiations.

To make it work, of course, a number of things need to happen. On the Israeli side, there appears to be a clear majority in favour of the Oslo Accords and, in any case, it is difficult to see how this or a subsequent Israeli government could go back on troop withdrawal from Jenicho and Gaza or the Interim Agreement, when it is negotiated. In other words, once the process of disengagement from the territories begins, it will be very hard to stop.

Western promises of hard cash to fund Gaza's development out of its present squalor are encouraging. But problems like Gaza's are never solved by just throwing money at them. To a large degree it will be the

responsibility of the Palestinian interim administration to ensure the development is structured and as fair as possible. Perhaps just as important for the Palestinians as cash is that the international community ensures Israel plays fair. There are plenty of loopholes in the Declaration of Principles which, as the occupying power, Israel may try to exploit, not least its continued access to Palestinian land and water for its settlers.

The response of the neighbouring states to the Oslo Accords is of great importance. If the Arab World en masse finally comes to terms with Israel's presence in its midst, there will be profound repercussions for the region's future. And while old habits die hard, apart from Syria and Lebanon, none of the Arab states has anything to lose and a great deal to gain by burying the hatchet with Israel.

Realistically, however, progress here is likely to be blocked until it is made in the bilateral talks between Israel and its northern neighbours. While there has been much rhetorical posturing on both sides since the Oslo Accords were signed, the truth of the matter is that there is very little Syria can do until the Israelis show serious flexibility: maybe there is room for a compromise on the Golan, with its limited resources and sparse population, but the Lebanese "security

zone" is an all or nothing situation. Until Israel gives it up, an accord with Syria seems out of the question. The most that can be asked of Syria at this stage is that it gives at least passive support to Yasser Arafat.

But the key element in the deal's success is the Palestinian people. As they watched the ceremony in Washington on Sept. 13, Palestinians' reactions ranged across the whole gamut of emotions. The spontaneous euphoria of the mass demonstrations in Gaza was hardly surprising; if all goes according to plan, Gaza will be free of the Israeli army by mid-April 1994. But others watched with sad disbelief as Mr. Arafat "signed away" their homeland "to save his own skin," to quote a Palestinian journalist in London. To Edward Said the whole business is an "embarrassment" that reduces the PLO from a liberation movement to a glorified local authority. Such reactions are understandable and rather hard to refute. For the terms of the Oslo Accords are those of the victor, Israel, rather than the victim, Palestine. In other decolonisation agreements of recent decades, the occupied have more often than not forced the imperial power to withdraw and so have been able to secure favourable terms for decolonisation. Not so

here. Nevertheless, the Oslo Accords do not make the Palestinians' situation any worse than it is at the moment. In any case, opposition from many Palestinian quarters has centred as much over how the deal was done as over its contents, and this continues to dominate much of the debate. But it is vital that the leftist factions and individuals in the movement remain engaged. Hamas has said in the past it will take what it can get, that it will participate in elections in the territories. If the secular opposition remains aloof, from elections or the whole process of negotiating the Interim Agreement, out of principle, politics in the territories will polarise between Mr. Arafat's Fateh and Hamas. It would be a tragedy if Palestinians of the calibre of Mr. Said, Haidar Abdul Shafi and others took no part in the establishment of the first Palestinian polity.

Surely, it is naive to believe Palestine is now on the way to certain statehood. Just how Resolution 242 will be implemented remains to be discussed in the final status negotiations. But it is not equally naive to believe that, by rejecting what is on offer now, the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 194 and repatriation or compensation for 1948 refugees or the liberation of East Jerusalem will be made more likely?

Some Greenpeace members see red over its pollution of the sea

By Caroline Smith
Reuters

AMSTERDAM — Greenpeace faces a dilemma — how "environmentally friendly" should the pressure group be in its own direct action campaigns?

For more than 20 years it has run campaigns to focus attention on ecological issues. But this may have to change if some members succeed in committing the group to green lobbying tactics.

At the heart of the debate are the fossil-fuel burning ships used in such actions as Greenpeace's shadowing of a Japanese ship carrying highly radioactive plutonium early this year.

Some Greenpeace members say using such vessels means the organisation is willing to pollute the sea to further its ends.

Others argue that a small amount of pollution is a price worth paying for the attention the ships attract to major environmental issues such as whaling and nuclear waste dumping.

"It's a bit of a dilemma," said Greenpeace's marine director Ulrich Jurgens, who added that

the future of the fleet should be decided at Greenpeace's annual meeting next month.

"No ship is environmentally sound. But do we want to have ships for our image... or do we still want to do the actions which make Greenpeace well known?" said Albert Kuiken, captain of the Solo, one of Greenpeace's best-known vessels.

Under his captaincy the Solo has been shot at and arrested in Russia, rammed by a Japanese frigate and stormed by armed French commandos. The Dutchman knows first-hand the importance of a well-built ship during confrontations at sea.

"If we want a sturdy, fast action ship then of course we have to give in a bit on the level of environmental soundness," he said.

He argues that a little pollution is a necessary evil if campaigners are to remain safe.

Mr. Jurgens is in favour of designing environmentally-friendly vessels which would fulfil the green criteria so important to campaigners but would still allow

action to continue.

"I don't see anything in the market which we could just buy (to replace the old fleet)," he said.

Other members of Greenpeace say designing and building ships is a waste of contributors' money.

Capt. Kuiken said it was unfortunate so many people in the organisation paid so much attention to the environmental side of the ships.

"It's very understandable... but I hope it doesn't mean we are becoming lame ducks. We will end up with amazing environmental ships which will not be a threat to polluters."

Capt. Kuiken believes the aim of a campaign is to stop pollution. He said he had never heard a supporter say "the action was great but it's a pity you had to burn some fuel to do it."

The Solo has already been converted to make it more environmentally sound.

It uses a light fuel which has a sulphur content of only 0.2 to 0.3 per cent — a more expensive alternative to heavy fuel contain-

ing three per cent sulphur.

Exchangers were fitted to warm the ship with excess engine heat, and the engines were adapted to clean the exhaust fumes.

The ideal alternative for some would be a wind-powered vessel that burnt no fuel. But not for Capt. Kuiken.

He captured the Solo when it tracked the progress of the Japanese freighter Akatsuki Maru carrying 1.7 tonnes of plutonium to Japan from France.

While at sea the Solo was rammed by a Japanese frigate which was escorting the Akatsuki Maru.

Capt. Kuiken said the power of the Solo and its manoeuvrability meant Greenpeace could pursue its action despite the dangers the crew faced.

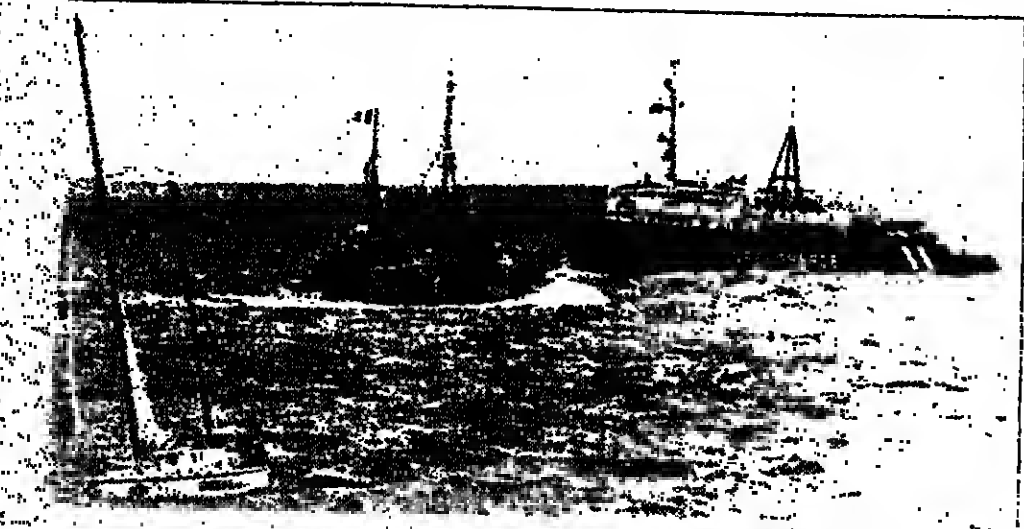
A smaller, less dependable vessel — of the type proposed by more green-conscious members — would have meant giving up sailing home, letting the Japanese have just what they wanted.

In October 1992 the Solo, carrying 29 crew, scientists and reporters, was shot at and arrested in the Kara Sea off the north coast of Russia while investigating the alleged dumping of nuclear waste. After the action Russia admitted to having dumped 18 nuclear reactors in the sea.

"What came out was a million times more important for the environment and for making people aware of things. I'm sorry we burned a bit of fuel, but when we get results like that I think it's really worth using a bit of fossil fuel," Capt. Kuiken said.

Though the debate continues, all members of Greenpeace are convinced that direct action campaigns are the necessary way forward if the movement is to survive and maintain its position as a headline-grabbing organisation.

Capt. Kuiken agrees. "I don't like having to do a flag day in Rotterdam while whales are getting killed in Norway. If we're heading that way then we're heading the wrong way."



The fossil-burning Greenpeace ships like the one here, next to a French Navy ship, are causing a dilemma: combat pollution with further pollution or... Some say it is a small price to pay (File photo)

Former hostage Waite pursued by questions

By Robert Barr
The Associated Press

LONDON — Freed from the chains, the fear and the boredom he suffered as a hostage, Terry Waite has returned to the public arena to face painful questions about what he was doing in Lebanon.

The publication of Mr. Waite's memoir, "Taken on Trust", has revived charges that the Church of England envoy was naive, or an egomaniac, or a stooge of Oliver North, that he took credit for hostage releases actually bought with U.S. arms shipments to Iran; that he is still holding back some of the truth.

Mr. Waite insists his conscience is clear.

"Particularly over here, a lot of people are out in the journalistic profession to make a reputation for themselves, and to be smart... and say, 'well, we knew better,'" Mr. Waite, 54, said in an interview last week.

"All you can say is, 'ok, where were you when there was a need? Were you there? Where were you when one of your fellow journalists was captured?'"

Whatever his motives, Mr. Waite paid a severe price: 1,763 days of captivity, most of them in solitary confinement.

The bearded, 2.01-metre-tall aide to Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie had been involved in securing the release of British prisoners from Iran and Libya. In 1984, an American Presbyterian official, Fred Wilson, sought Mr. Waite's

help on behalf of the Rev. Benjamin Weir, who had disappeared in Lebanon.

Rev. Weir's captors, Islamic Jihad, took more hostages in 1985. Terry Anderson, the Rev. Martin Jecko, David Jacobson and Thomas Sutherland.

Rev. Weir was released in September 1985. Two months later, the Associated Press bureau in Beirut received a letter signed by Messrs. Anderson, Jacobson, Jecko and Sutherland, addressed to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

It carried a crucial message: "Our captors have indicated they are willing for you to be involved..."

Mr. Waite went to Beirut, met a representative of the kidnappers and returned with four polaroid photographs of the captives, each holding a copy of the Wall Street Journal that Mr. Waite had signed to authenticate the pictures.

"No other person ever actually got to a face-to-face meeting with the kidnappers and actually came out with photographs of American hostages. Nobody," Mr. Waite said.

Mr. Jecko was released in July 1986 and Mr. Jacobson the following November.

The book includes a photo of Mr. Waite beaming as Mr. Jacobson, Rev. Weir and Mr. Jecko embraced at Lambeth Palace, the Archbishop's London office, in November 1986. To Mr. Waite's critics, this was taking credit where none was due.

Days earlier, President

Reagan had confirmed that the United States shipped arms to Iran although he denied any swap for hostages. Later, that month, Mr. Reagan fired Mr. North as congressional committee chair for details of how the arms sales had financed Contra revolutionaries in Nicaragua.

It was terribly awkward for Mr. Waite, who had met several times with Mr. North. In the book, Mr. Waite discloses he had flown with Mr. North to Beirut earlier in the year. Nothing came of the trip: "All he (North) said was that he had just met some very unpleasant men and that his hopes had come to nothing."

Amid the Iran-Contra uproar, Mr. Waite returned to Beirut in January 1987 — in part, he says, to demonstrate he had nothing to hide. He said he also had been told one of the hostages — either Mr. Sutherland or Mr. Anderson — was gravely ill.

Mr. Waite went alone to the office of a Dr. Mroueh, again meeting the representative of the kidnappers to set up a meeting with the hostages.

At a news conference, Mr. Waite said he expressed fear he would be taken hostage, but the representative assured him that would not happen. "And I said, 'give me your word as a Muslim that you will not keep me.' He stretched out his hand, he gave me his hand..."

But he was soon taken captive and kept alone for nearly four years. Mr. Waite did not meet Mr. Anderson, Mr. Sutherland and British hostage John McCarthy until he was

put in their cell in late 1990.

Richard Secord, a retired U.S. Air Force general convicted for his Iran-Contra activities, has said Mr. Waite served as "A convenient lightning rod for us to keep the prying eyes of the press diverted from our covert operations."

Mr. Waite now believes he may have been caught between two agendas: the kidnappers seeking the release or at least better conditions for relatives imprisoned in Kuwait, and the Iranians using the situation to get U.S. arms.

He concedes hostages may have been released because of his efforts. "But how does one know what at the time, you see?"

As his book was released last week, a BBC documentary showed Mr. Waite giving up the question to Mr. North: Had he been used?

"Oh, very much so," Mr. North said. "Our government did use you. It uses people every day."

The book is a product of Mr. Waite's continuing isolation, written in a single room at Trinity College in Cambridge. Weekends are spent with his wife, Frances, and their children.

The book's title, suggested by John McCarthy while they were prisoners, points to a recurring theme of betrayal in captivity. Mr. Waite remembered advice from a commander in the sea cadets: "Be careful of your friends. They can let you down badly."

Brussels burghers up in arms over EC's new parliament building

By Jeremy Lovell
Reuters

BRUSSELS — Rising like a vast, ultra-modern hothouse among the ruins of one of Brussels' smartest neighbourhoods, the European Parliament's new second home opens its doors for the first time on Wednesday.

Ten months after European Community leaders settled a squabble between Strasbourg and Brussels over whether the assembly's 518 members would be allowed to spend at least some of their time in their new home, the argument rumbles on.

This time it is the residents who are complaining as they watch the destruction of the elegant "Quartier Leopold."

The district, former architectural jewel in the crown of the Belgian capital, contains the offices of most of the EC's main institutions.

Wealthy householders in the few remaining pockets of tranquillity in the rapidly disintegrating area, where once artists such as French sculptor Auguste Rodin rubbed shoulders with industrialists and the nobility, are hanging on.

But their resolve is waning as the huge building site spreads out from the steel, glass and concrete parliament building at its centre.

"It is a disaster. Like Beirut, but without the war," said Fahmy Colasanti, a senior official with the European Commission, the executive of the EC.

Mr. Colasanti bought a beautiful house in the area, a short stroll from the commission's abandoned, asbestos-riddled Berlaymont headquarters, 10 years ago.

With his few remaining neighbours, he is fighting a rearguard action against the destruction of the once-peaceful area, where the night is often shattered by demolition crews working after dark to avoid disturbing office workers.

For the moment I'm staying, but it is becoming difficult," Mr. Colasanti said.

The residents' anger might have been at least partly soothed if there had been a coherent development plan for the area.

"There is a complete absence of strategy," Mr. Colasanti said.

The focus of the destruction, which will eventually cover one-third of a million square metres, is the still incomplete parliament building.

Its domed, central section rises 12 floors above the city, and wings about half as high project on either side like ears.

A giant facade of office buildings is being thrown up along one end of the symmetrical structure, destroying all in its path and forcing even the local railway station underground.

Property developers have begun moving in, looking for opportunities in the area.

From the top floor of the parliament's central tower the scale of destruction in Belgium's highest building project, costing 42 billion francs (\$1.2 billion), becomes more apparent.

From horizon to horizon stretches a sea of building sites, construction cranes and modern offices dwarfing clusters of older, once stately, homes between.

The heart of the building is a square hole stretching from the ground to the roof, the borders of which are fenced off with chest-high barriers and, up to the 11th storey, steel mesh from floor to ceiling.

In one of the car-shaped hemispheres is the main debating chamber with 750 seats, with the possibility of expanding to 900 as the community grows.

Here the still largely powerless members will debate resolutions on subjects ranging from bananas to craps.

For this they will pay a rent of about 100 million European currency units (115 million) a

year for the next 20 years.

Initially, full sessions in the new building will be brief and rare events. Only four will be held there next year.

The parliament's first plenary session in its new quarters starting on Wednesday will last barely two days and cover just three topics — the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, development cooperation and bananas.

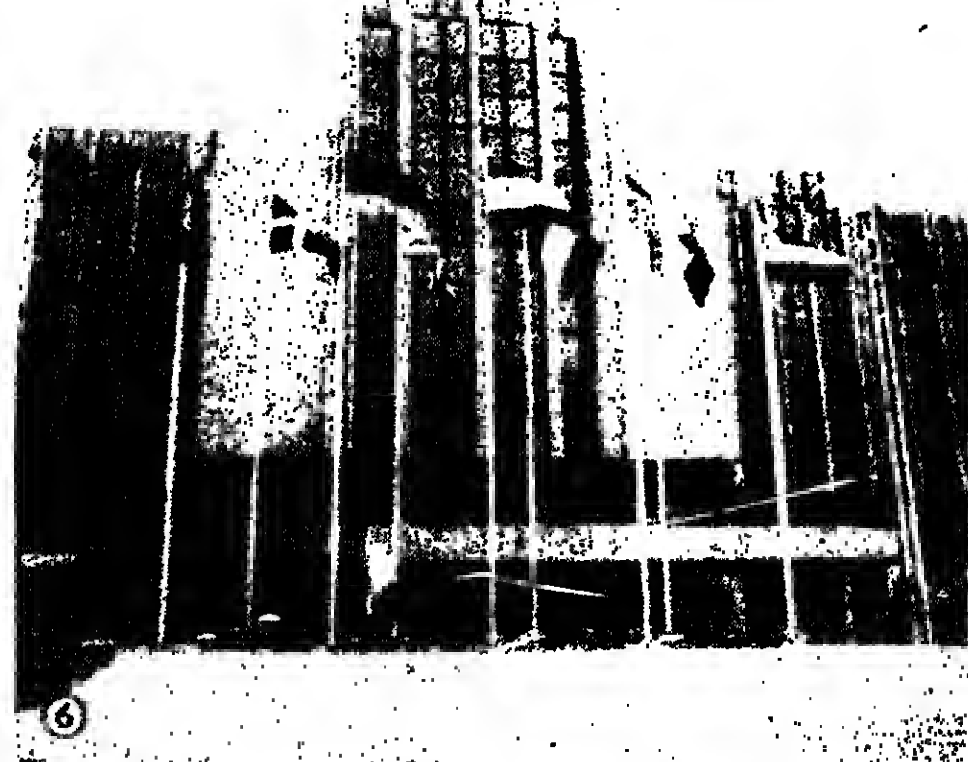
The number and length of these sessions are likely to grow until the roles of Strasbourg and Brussels are reversed.

The building's decor is best described as functional. Pastel shades, chromed steel, pale wood and neon lighting do little to soften the sharp angles.

The only nod in the direction of art is a bust of composer Ludwig van Beethoven standing alone in a corner of the 11th floor staring grimly into the empty heart of the building.

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Prestige-minded British happily pay more for 'elite' number plate than car

By Allen Nacheman
Agence France Presse

LONDON — It is difficult to explain why a person would pay \$35,000 (\$55,000) to have the number "1 FS" on his car license plate, but that's the advertised price and Tony Hill has no doubt he'll get it.

"Our prices are not dreamed up, they are carefully judged according to how rare the number is and how popular the demand is likely to be," says Mr. Hill, owner of Elite Registrations, Britain's largest private car number dealer.

"The popularity of the initials is a main determining factor," he said. "Look in the phone book. See how often the initials FS come up. A lot of people are going to want that one."

And, the lower the accompanying digits, the greater the number's worth.

"It's a matter of prestige," says Mr. Hill. "People enjoy being noticed. They enjoy being different, standing out in a crowd on the motorway. Just imagine the fun of driving out of London on the busy A 5 road, driving a car with the number plate A 5."

A plate like that, if it were for sale, would fetch around £8,500 (\$13,000).

Curiously, the number HY 1 is listed at £14,000 (\$21,000) while 6 HY is only £4,400 (\$6,600).

The reason: When the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) computer begins a number series it starts up the scale with the numbers after the letters, goes up a few hundred, reverses and starts back down with the numbers preceding the letters.

"HY 1 means your number was the first of the HY series," said Mr. Hill. "It's prestige."

Mr. Hill has learned other things in his 20 years in the business of buying and selling car numbers, such as:

"The digit 8 is favoured by Chinese businessmen, particularly 8, 168 and 668. They tell me that, when translated and pronounced in Chinese, the numbers wish upon the owner 'fortune, good luck and success.'"

In 1989, after years watching Mr. Hill and a few others in Britain make handsome livings trading registration numbers, the DVLA stepped into the elite car number business itself.

As its computer kicks out random numbers for new car registrations, employees pull out the ones that look particularly novel, bearing common initials, or recognisable digits such as James Bond's 007, and sell them separately.

They're called "personalised and cherished registrations", and command prices ranging from £150 (\$225) to £2,700 (\$4,000).

Those deemed highly valuable are sold at auctions, at which people like Mr. Hill are the principal bidders, although they are not happy about having to purchase their inventories from the competition.

"We claim they are creating a monopoly," he said of the DVLA. "They are creating their own merchandise and we can only deal in what's available. They have the goose that lays the golden eggs. They crashed into our market. It's grossly unfair."

A DVLA spokeswoman shrugged off the criticism, saying "these numbers are government assets, and we will release them in such a way as to maximise revenue to the government."

She says the DVLA enjoys

"a healthy dialogue" with Mr. Hill.

Mr. Hill is less friendly. "They're not very nice people," he sniffed. "I am the number one buyer in the country and at their last auction I spent £270,000 (\$400,000). And not one of them had the courtesy to come up to me and say hello, how about a cup of tea. Can you imagine?"

"My heart bleeds for him, poor chap," said the DVLA lady. "Tony feels he should be treated as royalty. Sometimes we don't have the time."

Mr. Hill himself owns 60 automobiles, each with an elite number plate.

His favourite number is "MAD 1" — on a Rolls Royce.

Gangs make Herculaneum town of fear

By Keith Weir
Reuters

HERCULANEUM, Italy — Ever since its Roman forerunner was buried by an eruption 2,000 years ago, this town has lived in fear. But it is drug gangs not Mount Vesuvius that strike terror into the hearts of residents.

Wedge between the Bay of Naples and the volcano, the small town has become a shooting gallery for the Camorra, the Neapolitan version of the Mafia, with gangland killings reminiscent of Al Capone's Chicago in the 1920s.

At his wit's end, local priest Father Raffaele Falco wrote to Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro in late August, suggesting he send in the army.

"It was a cry of desperation," Mr. Falco said.

The army of the Camorra had taken over — its men were going around with machineguns and pistols with no-one able to stop them," he

said at his modern church on the fringes of town.

A steady flow of tourists still make the 20-minute train journey south from Naples to see the excavated Roman resort engulfed, when Vesuvius erupted in AD 79.

But they rub shoulders with scores of addicts drawn from all over southern Italy by the prospect of cheap drugs.

"Between 2,000 and 4,000 packets of heroin and cocaine were being traded daily," said Mr. Falco, adding that the price had plummeted as two rival gangs battled for control of the market.

Born in Herculaneum and a priest there for 25 years, Mr. Falco is saddened by the conditions in which its 60,000 inhabitants must live.

"What was once a livable town has now fallen into a state of profound decay," he wrote to the strongly Catholic Scalfaro.

Mr. Falco admits that pour-

ing police into trouble spots or deploying the army — as the government has done to help combat the Mafia on the southern island of Sicily — is no panacea.

"The level of schooling here is very low, there is little space for children to play but what we need above all are jobs."

Unemployment in parts of the south is over 25 per cent — more than twice the national average — and the government has put job creation at the top of its agenda.

The choice for young people here is either to leave, join the police or join up with the crime gangs," Mr. Falco said.

The cleric estimates some 500 people are involved in drug trafficking in Herculaneum with children as young as 10 getting sucked into the business.

He insists the town can be rescued by exploiting its rich history and geographical position but acknowledges that patience will be required.

Mr. Falco admits that pour-

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Gamsakhurdia's forces advance on Shevardnadze territory

TBILISI (R) — Rebels hostile to Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze have advanced out of their ethnic territory and threaten the capital Tbilisi, Georgian radio said Sunday.

The rebels are loyal to ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia who is mounting a comeback from his ethnically distinct western region of Mingrelia.

The radio said gunmen using tanks and heavy artillery moved into the village of Khoni in neighbouring central Georgia late Saturday. Earlier Saturday they had taken the port of Poti. Six people died in the fighting there.

Khoni is about 25 kilometres north west of the central Georgian administrative centre, Kutaisi, which remains loyal to Mr. Shevardnadze. It is a little less than that distance north of Samtredia, a railway junction where the lines from Poti and Georgia's southernmost port Batumi meet.

A single line carries on to Tbilisi in the east. If the pro-

Gamsakhurdia rebels now move on Samtredia they will cut off Tbilisi's access to all supplies from Black Sea ports.

The radio broadcast the information in a statement from Temur Shashishvili, mayor of Kutaisi, where Mr. Shevardnadze gathered district leaders loyal to him Friday to work out ways of strengthening areas bordering Mingrelia from attack.

ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted a Samtredia official as saying that Mr. Gamsakhurdia's forces might also take that town, as there were insufficient government troops to defend it.

The rebels now control a total of nine towns and districts in western Georgia, TASS said.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia returned from nearly two years in exile a fortnight ago when Mr. Shevardnadze's attention was diverted to defending his country against a separate ethnic uprising in the rebel region of

Abkhazia.

Abkhazia fell to separatist forces last week and Mr. Shevardnadze has since accused Georgia's mighty northern neighbour Russia of masterminding the rebellion.

The defeat sent thousands of soldiers and tens of thousands of refugees flooding back into Georgia.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia's forces have seized the artillery Georgian troops used in Abkhazia. Mr. Shevardnadze has appealed to Gamsakhurdia supporters to cease all activity while refugees are being evacuated from Abkhazia.

"It is possible to save these people only if we cease military activity and work together," said a statement released by Mr. Shevardnadze's office. "We have to open all roads to the disaster area, including the road to Zugdidi."

Zugdidi, in western Georgia, is Mr. Gamsakhurdia's stronghold.

On Saturday, Russia's For-

ign Ministry warned that Georgia was on the brink of civil war. It offered to send peacekeeping troops to the tiny Transcaucasian state to monitor any peace agreement.

Tbilisi residents said they were strongly against accepting help from Russia. "It was Russia fighting against us in Abkhazia. They are our worst enemies. I support Shevardnadze, but he let the Russians in. I've had it with him," said Gia Sbegalshvili, a young trader.

The mediator in earlier conflicts between Tbilisi and Mingrelia, the powerful mayor of Batumi, Aslan Abashidze, has kept a low profile since the latest fighting broke out.

Mr. Abashidze, a former Communist official who runs his own wealthy ethnic area, Adzhara, virtually as an independent state is more pro-Russian than either Mr. Shevardnadze or Mr. Gamsakhurdia. Many diplomats see him as the heir apparent to the troubled state.



Indian soldiers carry a person rescued from debris Saturday three days after a massive earthquake hit western India (AFP photo)

Epidemic feared in Indian quake zone

LATUR, India (AFP) — Epidemics were feared Sunday over the quake-ravaged villages of western India where thousands of bodies remained buried under tonnes of rubble three days after an earthquake struck the region.

Rescue workers picked their way through the wreckage of flattened homes around this small town in Maharashtra state, covering their noses with cloth to ward off the stench of decaying human remains.

Heavy rains lashed parts of the region on the two days following the disaster, estimated to have taken 30,000 lives and added to the misery of survivors.

The rains reinforced fears of a serious outbreak of disease and slowed efforts to clear the wreckage of flattened homes and dispose of decomposing corpses.

"We are trying to dispose of bodies as and when they are recovered," said Ajit Vardi, an

official coordinating relief measures from Bombay, the state capital. "But the bad weather has slowed things down considerably."

"Mass cremations obviously are not possible in these kind of conditions," Mr. Vardi said, "but we are doing our best to clear the debris by this evening and expand relief measures further."

Survivors were drinking untreated water and there was no effort to inoculate them against disease, posing the possibility of an epidemic of cholera, typhoid or gastroenteritis.

"If this continues, there is a 100 per cent chance of an epidemic," said a Latour shopkeeper, Ajay Kumar.

More than 9,000 victims have been cremated at mass funerals but thousands of corpses were still either piled up in hastily-dug pits awaiting disposal or buried in the wreckage.

It was the deadliest earthquake to strike the subcontinent in 60 years. An estimated 130,000 people were left homeless.

Thousands of consignments of relief supplies, including medicines, food, cooking oil, drinking water and kitchen paraphernalia, tin sheetings and bamboo for shelters have arrived in the quake zone but were yet to reach many villages.

Electricity supplies were yet to be restored and telecommunications facilities remained poor.

Volunteers levelled earth, erected wooden poles and tried to set up community kitchens to feed survivors. Relief measures have been chaotic as a result of poor coordination between government, army and non-official agencies.

"There is a lot of confusion," said Gopinath Munde, an opposition leader, some villages were getting more relief material than they needed

Bosnia Serbs, Muslims strike new blows to peace

SARAJEVO (R) — Serbs and Muslims both struck blows to fading hopes for peace in Bosnia at the weekend with the withdrawal by the Bosnian Serb parliament of territorial concessions and violence between Muslims.

The rebel Bosnian Serb parliament voted late Saturday to renege on concessions made to the Muslims as part of the latest Geneva peace plan.

The Muslim-led Bosnian parliament had effectively rejected the peace plan Wednesday by making acceptance of the pact conditional on the return of all territory "seized by force".

This angered the Serbs, who voted to withdraw an earlier promise of access for Muslims to the Sava River at the strategic town of Brcko. The town, which sits on a vital supply corridor for the Serbs, has seen heavy fighting.

"Brcko will be a Serb town now and the people will be

able to sleep soundly," Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said during the parliament's session in the town of Banja Luka.

He added: "I will try to (withdraw concessions) in a way that will not close the door to further negotiations... the peace package is still worthwhile for us."

Bosnia's Muslim president, Alija Izetbegovic, has also said he wants to keep talks open but international negotiators say they are worried by developments.

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Sunday accused world leaders of failing to stop the war.

"It's terrible what has happened in Bosnia," Baroness Thatcher told the Sunday Times newspaper in London.

"It's a disgrace to humanity... let no one in Europe lecture anyone about human rights," Mrs. Thatcher has in the past called for strong mili-

tary intervention in Bosnia. European Community foreign ministers are scheduled to meet Monday to talk about the situation.

Mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg will brief them and the ministers could ask the Western European Union to examine whether it could provide a police force for the hotly contested southwestern town of Mostar.

Sarajevo Radio carried reports of a ceasefire in Mostar on Sunday. Croatian radio had earlier reported on the ceasefire, saying Muslim and Croat officers signed it in the presence of U.N. officials in the town of Medjugorje, south of Mostar.

It was intended to serve as a guide for a broader ceasefire in central Bosnia. Fighting has continued in the area despite a unilateral ceasefire declared by the Bosnian army.

In the breakaway Muslim enclave around Bihac in north-

western Bosnia, rebel Muslim gunmen ambushed supporters of Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic Saturday, wounding four people, U.N. peacekeeping officials said.

It was the first recorded bloodshed in the remote Bihac pocket since dissident Muslims declared independence from the central government in Sarajevo last Monday.

The victims were in the lead vehicles in a convoy of more than 30 buses, trucks and cars that had set out from the town of Cazvin to demonstrate on the edge of territory controlled by Fikret Abdic, leader of the breakaway movement.

"When they arrived at the (edge of) Skokovi (village), they met strong resistance. Supporters of Mr. Abdic opened fire on the vehicle at the front of the convoy and hit it," Captain Eric Hasteleque of a French U.N. peacekeeping unit told Reuters.

Prospect of early polls splits Italian parties

ROME (R) — President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro's signal that he might call early general elections in 1994 has enraged Italy's ruling coalition while opposition parties are gleeful at the prospect of big gains at the polls.

Mr. Scalfaro, who has ultimate responsibility for the timing of elections, said he had wanted to dissolve the scandal-tainted parliament last month when it blocked the arrest of Ex-Health Minister Francesco De Lorenzo on corruption charges.

Mr. Scalfaro called the decision a disgrace and indicated he would call elections once the final details of the country's new majority-voting laws are approved.

Political commentators said Mr. Scalfaro would most likely opt for elections in April or May, a view echoed by Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta in a speech in New York Saturday.

"It is hard to work in a parliament in which a third of the members are under investigation. I believe there will be early elections in the first few months of next year," Mr. Andreatta said.

The prospect of early elections has appalled the Christian Democrats (DC) and the Socialists, the parties whose alliance has formed the backbone of governments over the past 30 years.

Both parties are reeling under the effects of Italy's huge 20-month political corruption scandal and want time to regroup before they go to the polls.

"Of course Mr. Scalfaro has the right to dissolve parliament. But it must be within a constitutional framework and not because he doesn't like a vote by parliament," said Gerardo Bianco, the DC chief whip in the lower house.

"If it were up to me then we would vote in 1997, when the next elections are scheduled," he added.

The corruption scandal has led to a clamour for fresh elections, heightened by the passing of a referendum to scrap Italy's much derided proportional representation system.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Canada's liberals 'head for a majority'

OTTAWA (R) — Canada is headed for a majority government under Liberal leader Jean Chretien after the Oct. 25 general election, according to a new opinion poll. The poll, commissioned by the Financial Post newspaper, gives the Liberals the support of 38 per cent of decided voters against 26 per cent for the ruling Conservatives of Prime Minister Kim Campbell. "In a multi-party election, the sky is the limit. If there is no change in how people feel, it could be a Liberal landslide," Conrad Winn, president of polling company Compas Inc. told the Financial Post. The poll was conducted between Sept. 16 and 26 of 2,638 voting age Canadians and has a margin of error of 1.9 percentage points. The poll also showed that the Bloc Quebecois party, which favours gradually separating the French-speaking province of Quebec from the rest of Canada, has the support of 51 per cent of decided voters in that province. The newspaper said the Bloc Quebecois is poised to win the overwhelming majority of Quebec's seats. It said that based on the opinion poll the bloc could form the official opposition in the federal parliament after the election.

Indonesia 'is cracking down' on students

JAKARTA (R) — Despite promises of greater openness Indonesia continues to crack down on dissent in universities, the human rights group Asia Watch said Sunday. In a report released here, the U.S.-based group said court cases against students in recent months has become a test of President Suharto's promises to allow more dissent. "There is no question that in Indonesia today there is greater freedom than there was five years ago to call publicly for more political openness. There are few signs, however, that that call is being heeded," the report said. In interviews, diplomats, human rights activists and the author of the report said the government had given conflicting signals by allowing greater freedom to newspapers but remaining as tough as ever on student dissent.

Hosokawa faces first test of reforms

TOKYO (R) — Japan's new Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and coalition team face their first test of a pledge to cut bureaucracy and reform government in Parliamentary Budget Committee debates Monday. Cabinet ministers for the first time will be expected to answer for their ministries instead of relying on civil servants to field all the questions. The move threatens Japan's rigid system of bureaucracy that is reputed to run the country. His seven-week-old government also must prove that it will allocate the state budget for 1994/95 according to public needs instead of at the convenience of powerful ministries. Mr. Hosokawa, leader of a small anti-party party, came to power in August as the head of an eight-party coalition formed to stamp out rampant corruption. His coalition toppled the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) from power for the first time in 38 years. Political reform is an issue that has brought down two previous Japanese governments.

Papandreou set to make a comeback

ATHENS (AFP) — Veteran Greek socialist Andreas Papandreou is set to make a comeback as premier next Sunday in Greece's general elections, according to opinion polls in the run-up. All of them point to a victory for the man who helped found the Pasok Party. He has a healthy lead over his old rival Constantinos Mitsotakis of the conservative New Democracy Party. Right-wing nationalist Antonis Samaras, regarded in some circles as a young upstart, is trailing in third place, without enough support to hold the balance of power. In all, 29 parties are vying for the votes of 8.4 million electors. Only two other parties, the Communist Party and the Coalition of the Left For Progress, are likely to reach the three per cent threshold they will need to get into the Vuli, Greece's 300-seat parliament.

Party struggles for unity behind Major

LONDON (R) — Britain's ruling Conservative Party was urged Sunday to fall in line behind John Major in a week that could make or break the prime minister.

The towering figure of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher offered her successor only modest comfort, declining to use a much-publicised interview to endorse him.

She did not refer to him directly at all in the Sunday Times, saying only that any leader of the Conservatives should not be pushed out of power the way she was in 1990.

"Being prime minister is something much bigger than being the leader of a party," she was quoted as saying. "It's being prime minister of a nation."

With Mr. Major facing constant sniping from Conservative critics and the distant rumblings of a leadership challenge, the fact Mrs. Thatcher had to warn against a challenge spoke volumes.

Fall of Kilali gives major boost to Sri Lankan military

COLOMBO (AFP) — The Sri Lankan army's capture of a key Tamil guerrilla-held area in the north is a crippling blow to the rebels and a timely boost for a military recovering from a series of setbacks, military analysts said Sunday.

The armed forces captured Kilali Friday, destroying more than 120 boats and a pier used by the Sea Tigers, the naval arm of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The capture of Kilali is a major setback for the Tigers, a major defence analyst said. "Now they are hemmed in from all sides."

Government forces have laid siege to the LTTE-controlled Jaffna peninsula.

With Kilali in their hands, the military now controlled all access routes to Jaffna from the mainland, including the Sanguipiddy-Pooneryn ferry point and a land route through Elephant Pass at the neck of the peninsula.

The seizure of Kilali, howev-

IFP to prepare for S. African elections

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) has resolved to prepare to contest South Africa's first non-racial election, scheduled for April 27, a statement said Sunday.

But the party's position was still that the poll should be for a new government and not a constitution making body, according to the resolution taken Saturday by the IFP's decision-making Central Committee in its KwaZulu black homeland headquarters of Ulundi.

IFP President Mangosuthu Buthelezi has previously expressed doubts as to whether his party would fight the elec-

tion unless the IFP's demands for federalism were entrenched in constitution before the poll.

The IFP has boycotted multi-party democracy talks since July 2, when negotiators set April 27 as the date for the historic poll.

The Central Committee resolved to "continue to prepare for elections in the expectation that these elections will be for a new democratic government and not for a transitional body."

Mr. Buthelezi also sounded a softening in the IFP's attitude to the election when he made a speech promoting the IFP's policies Friday in the northern Natal province town of Pietermaritzburg.

"We want your support to help us fight for what we believe in. We say to those of you who believe in political decency, who believe in federalism, who believe in free enterprise, who believe in true democracy and true freedom, that you can find a home in the IFP," Mr. Buthelezi said.

He also attacked the government over tax policies and security and accused the ANC of wanting to secure absolute power for itself.

The government and the ANC have been holding a series of bilateral talks with the IFP in attempts to draw Mr. Buthelezi back into the process.

French teacher decries 'fat' discrimination

LILLE, France (R) — A 120-year-old woman weighing 120 kilograms decried French education for discriminating against people for temporarily leaving her from teaching health grounds. School officials insisted it was a necessary measure pending a report by a medical specialist. Isabelle Lemaire told reporters she was in perfect health and demanded a second opinion and said: "At a time when people are calling for racial integration, I am called this physical segregation."

Protesters on funny bikes want more lanes

PARIS (R) — Cyclists on funny bikes snarled Paris traffic, a protest to demand extra lanes for two-wheelers, more pedestrian streets and fewer cars. Some 200 to 300 people riding tandem cycles, tall bicycles, cycles and a variety of other two-wheelers massed on Place De La Bastille to protest what they said was neglect, their needs by Mayor Jacques Chirac. The Bicycle Defense Movement said the rally's aim was to get a "green zone" in the city, a network of streets for cyclists and pedestrians free of cars and their noise and fumes.

Laser treatment can stop snoring

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota (R) — A new laser treatment can eliminate snoring in patients, doctors reported. The technique burns away tissue passages at the back of the mouth and nose, reshaping and reforming the openings, allowing a greater airflow, report said. People who snore usually do so because there is an obstruction to the free flow of air, often caused by excessive tissue in the uvula and palate, it said. After three five-10-minute office visits under local anaesthesia 85 per cent of patients given laser treatment stop snoring, said the report from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee and St. Luke's Hospital in New York. Patients experience mild sore throat for several days but bleeding and other complications are rare, study said.

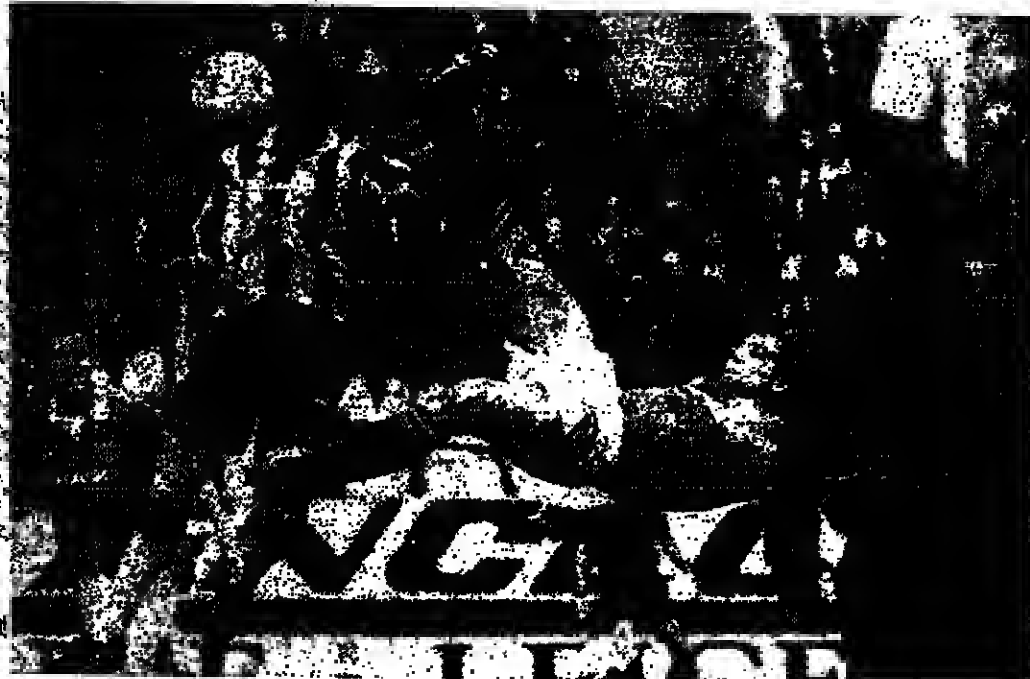
Nude day gimmick outstrips store's expectations

MELBOURNE (R) — Australian music store who specialises in bizarre promotions found itself with much exposure Sunday with its annual nude day attracting more customers than the store could safely hold. Gaslight Music to Melbourne was overwhelmed by response to offer of free compact discs all customers who shopped naked, owner Jeff Harris said. "There's no way you can top today. It's the pinnacle of our calendar year," he said after a record 150 people left their clothes at the door. At other times of the year Gaslight offers prizes to customers who shave an eyebrow or bring an ugly friend to a fake an orgasm, but Mr. Harris said the nude day, first held in 1989, attracted the biggest crowds. He said the store had been publishing a calendar for about four years with listed off-beat themes for most days of the year in a bid to inject some fun into retailing. His only disappointment with the promotion, which featured a nude band, was that men outnumbered women about four to one, a high ratio than in recent years. "There were probably a lot more men out there than the girls had a good time," said Mr. Harris, who like his staff did not disrobe.

Chewing-gum won't come off, Parisians say

PARIS (R) — The Paris Tel Hall is upset. After spending millions on beautifying its Champs Elysees, state chewing-gum has stuck to new granite tiles and will not come off. "We've tried a dozen techniques," the city's environmental director Philippe Gal told Le Figaro newspaper. "Why can't people wrap old gum in paper and throw it in the bin?" The trouble is faced after Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac launched a year revamp of the prestigious avenue in 1990, including Sardinian granite paving stones instead of asphalt.

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Mark Hughes (centre right) of Manchester United tries an acrobatic attack as an opponent tries to block his attempt (AFP photo)

United pull further ahead

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United striker Mark Hughes was hacked by manager Alex Ferguson to embark on a goal spree after firing the champions to a 3-2 win in the English Premiership at Sheffield Wednesday Saturday.

The Welsh international grabbed two goals and made the other for Ryan Giggs as United forged five points ahead at the top of the table.

"The got two goals last week, scored two again today and made another," said Ferguson. "He'll go on a run now, I'm sure of that. That's what he does. He'll score a few and then go on a run where he just can't stop."

United were tipped by Wednesday boss Trevor Francis to retain the title, even though they took a while to find their form on Saturday.

"Last season's success has given them added confidence," Francis reasoned. "They have so many outstanding players and I think the present United side is the best we've had in our domestic football for a long time."

Leeds are also being put forward as possible title contenders after a 4-0 home rout of Wimbledon made it five wins on the trot for Howard Wilkinson's team, but the Leeds boss scoffed at such talk.

"Titles are for books," he said. "It was a good result, especially as Wimbledon had had an impressive run before today."

"We did most things very well, scored two early goals, we could have had more. It could have been 7-2. We became careless, but overall I couldn't complain."

Wimbledon manager Joe Ginnear agreed: "It was a nightmare start for us, conceding two excellent goals."

"We forgot the qualities that

got us where we are — hard graft and hard work. Certain people didn't do their jobs and we got punished."

"We've lost five players in the last two weeks, but I'm not making that an excuse. Leeds were worthy winners. We had about five chances away from home, but you can't stop class."

Aston Villa manager Ron Atkinson was just as angry with his side as they folded 2-0 at home to Newcastle.

"We were a shambles," he stormed. "It was a disgrace and an embarrassing performance."

In contrast, Newcastle boss Kevin Keegan was hubbub following his side's first away league success of the campaign.

He beamed: "I think this performance proves that we're now a top Premiership side. We're getting close to becoming a very good team."

Nottingham manager Mike Walker was equally delighted with his side's display in their 1-0 home triumph over Coventry, which lifted the Canaries into fourth place, just behind Leeds.

"They say that when you play in Europe during the week, it can sometimes produce a low-par performance on the following Saturday, but we created enough chances to have won it comfortably," he enthused. "Some of our football was quite brilliant."

"It's also nice to be so near the top again. We definitely needed to win because Manchester United seem to be steaming away at the top and we needed a victory to keep in touch."

Second-placed Arsenal found their midweek European tie took its toll as they squeezed a goalless draw at Liverpool.

Urban Sea wins Arc

PARIS (Agencies) — Outsider Urban Sea won the Prix De L'Arc De Triomphe Sunday.

British challengers White Muzzle and Opera House came second and third respectively, with Intrepidity fourth.

Urban Sea was ridden by Eric Saint-Martin son of ex-top rider Yves Saint-Martin, who wore the colours of Hong Kong owner David Tsui.

Eric's father won the race four times himself.

Meanwhile champion stayer Assessor ploughed through the Longchamp mud to win the Group One Prix Du Cadran to the delight of the man who had just sold him.

"I normally don't back him," said ex-owner Bjorn Nielsen, "but I had to have something on today."

Nielsen, an American-based commodities broker who once played Davis Cup tennis for Denmark, sold Assessor earlier in the week to Soltan Mohammad of Saudi Arabia.

Nielsen was reluctant to part with by far the best horse he has ever owned. The colt was his one favourite for the 1992 Epsom Derby and won the French St. Leger here last year.

"But it was a good deal and money talks," said Nielsen, who would not discuss the exact price.

Assessor, who revels in heavy ground, proved himself one of the top stayers in Europe with an impressive six lengths success over Sought Out.

Sought Out, ridden by Gerald Mosse, had a good lead turning into the straight with 400 metres of the four kilometres haul remaining.

But John Reid knew Assessor had plenty in reserve and the pair forged clear to provide another big race winner for English trainer Richard Hanoo.

Reid said: "The owner thought I had given him too much to do but I was always confident."

Assessor started at just over even money favourite and if his new owner keeps him in training, the Ascot Gold Cup and other top long distance events look well within the colt's compass.

The Prix Du Cadran was one of two Group One races providing an impressive prelude to the main feature, the Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe.

Victory in the other, the grand criterium for two-year-olds, went to 9-1 chance Lost World.

Ridden by promising Olivier Peslier for trainer Ede Lelouch. Lost World won by three-quarters of a length from Signe Divin, the mount of Thierry Jarret.

Psychobabble, partnered by Cash Assessor, stayed on in the mud to finish third a further length and a half away.

Liverpool manager Graeme Souness excused rookie striker Robbie Fowler after he spurned the chances to bury Arsenal.

Southampton and Sheffield United also finished all square at 3-3, but Saints manager Ian Branfoot was furious with his defenders.

Branfoot said: "I would question all three goals because they were had defensive errors."

Ipswich manager Mick McGovern had a similar complaint after his side had crashed 3-0 at Queens Park Rangers.

Chelsea player-manager Glenn Hoddle preferred to direct his anger at skipper Dennis Wise, sent off for a late tackle on David Burrows, following his side's 1-0 defeat at West Ham.

"I'm very disappointed," said the Chelsea boss. "We had a good run and now it's ended. Having a man sent off obviously puts you under extra pressure, but in the second half we could totally control the game. Why we didn't do it with 11 men in the first half is the question that burs me."

Eintracht Frankfurt pull away

In Bonn, Eintracht Frankfurt, deprived of top scorer Anthony Yeboah, extended their lead at the top of the German League to three points by beating 1991-92 champions VfB Stuttgart 2-0 Saturday.

Defending champions Werder Bremen could only manage a 1-1 draw at Schalke 04 to concede a little more ground to Frankfurt.

But the damage could have been greater for the northern port town. Schalke defender Jurgen Luginger seemed to have ensured a win when he opened the scoring with a quarter-hour to go. But Bremen striker Bernd Hobsch snatched a point with a goal three minutes from the final whistle.

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Short, Kasparov draw 12th game

LONDON (R) — British challenger Nigel Short and champion Garry Kasparov ended the first half of their 24-game chess match Saturday pleased to have shared honours in a hard-fought draw in the 12th game.

Kasparov leads 8-1/2 to 3-1/2 after five wins and seven draws. He needs only a 12-12 tie to retain the crown and 12-1/2 points will secure the 1/4 winner's share of the 1.7 million pound (\$2.5 million) prize sponsored by the Times of London newspaper.

In Saturday's game, Kasparov continued his strategy of risky and ambitious play when defending with the black pieces and sacrificed a bishop early in the game to gain an armada of dangerous passed pawns.

Experts found it difficult to assess the delicately balanced endgame that eventually arose, with Short having an extra bishop to battle against the champion's dangerous phalanx of three pawns.

Kasparov seemed to have slightly more winning chances, but Short's accurate play kept the game roughly in balance.

Short managed to neutralise the champion's threats and was in no danger when the players agreed to split the point.

The draw completes Short's best week of the event, having held the champion even with three, complex and hard-fought draws.

But the challenger's biggest hurdle remains as the match has now reached the halfway point with Kasparov still undefeated.

At a post-game news conference the players agreed that Kasparov's bold sacrifice neutralised Short's advantage of the first move and hinted that Kasparov had even gained the upper hand.

Kasparov said his decision to play an endgame with a mass of powerful pawns against a bishop had been misjudged, and

that he then had to steer for equality.

"It was a good game. Both sides played well," Short said. "So, have we reached perfection now?" Kasparov asked.

Kasparov, who has seemed fatigued in recent games, appeared to have regained most of his energy.

Andrew Page, Kasparov's manager, told Reuters that the champion had been busy with non-chess matters recently but was now regaining his strength.

"It's a long, hard match and there (are) always some down periods but he's back now. I think Gary is going to be very, very dangerous next week," Page said.

The coming week's play is a "black week" for Short, who must defend against Kasparov's often lethal assault with the white pieces in two of the three games.

The official world championship match, between Russian Anatoly Karpov and Dutchman Jan Timman, sanctioned by the world chess body FIDE, has been suspended for a week, at the halfway point in that 24-game series. Karpov leads Timman 7-5.

FIDE is still in emergency negotiations after the withdrawal of second-half sponsors Oman.

Besides supplying a venue and operating costs, an emergency sponsor must also provide the FIDE minimum of one million Swiss francs (\$697,300) for a title match after the organisers in the Netherlands failed to raise any money towards the advertised prize fund of 1.8 million pounds (\$2.7 million).

FIDE disqualified Kasparov and Short after a dispute over the conditions of their title match. Short and Kasparov responded by founding the Professional Chess Association, which is the organisation represented at the London match.

Japan makes critics eat their words

HAMILTON, Canada (AFP) — The critics who predicted that Japan would prove to be a spent force in judo were made to eat their words at the world championships Saturday.

Japanese competitors added another title and won medals in all four of the categories at stake.

Yukimasa Nakamura, whose brother Yosio won the gold medal in the under-86 kilograms Friday, ignored the jeers and boos of the crowd to triumph controversially over Switzerland's Eric Boon in the under-65kg category.

The 21-year-old Yukimasa, world junior champion in 1990, was allowed to keep his Ippon advantage although the referee appeared to have stopped the contest when he produced his hold.

It was a bitter disappointment for the 23-year-old Boon whose silver medal was the first ever won by Switzerland at a world championship.

Defending world champion Udo Quellmazz had to be satisfied with a bronze medal, while the Olympic gold medal winner Waziri Ari of Japan by

Graf crushes Novotna in Leipzig final

LEIPZIG (R) — Steffi Graf swept aside Jana Novotna 6-2, 6-0 to win the \$375,000 Leipzig Women's Indoor tennis tournament on Germany's national day Sunday.

Graf, top seed and defending champion, never let the Czech third-seed into the match, dominating the indoor court with powerful serves and precision volleys.

It was the first time the pair had met since Graf beat the Czech in the Wimbledon final in July but any hopes Novotna had of gaining revenge quickly disappeared as the German broke her serve at will.

Graf capitalised on her first match point on Novotna's serve when the Czech, who turned 25 on Saturday, hit a backhand beyond the baseline. The match was over in less than an hour.

"We all know Jana can play much better," Graf told the crowd afterwards. "But maybe she was up too late last night celebrating her birthday."

It was Graf's fourth victory in many years in the east German tournament and coincided with the third anniversary of German reunification.

Graf said she was particularly proud of her victory because it took place on unity day.

"Winning on this particular day was special," Graf said. "I am happy to have played such great tennis today."

Michael Chang wins Malaysian Open: In Kuala Lumpur, American Michael Chang subdued Sweden's Jonas Svensson 6-0, 6-4 in one of his best finals

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q1.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: **AK9542 ♠ 6 ♠ 8752**
- The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass 3♠ Pass ?
- What action do you take?
- A.—This is not the time to worry about whether you should have responded in the first place. Once you ventured one heart (our choice, too), partner's bid is unconditionally forcing. Bid four clubs.
- Q2.—As South, vulnerable, you hold: **AK98 ♠ 9A9 ♠ KQ92 ♠ Q1062**
- Partner opens the bidding with one no-trump. What do you respond?
- A.—Even if our no-trump range was 15-17, we would invite slam with all these primes and intermediates, we think this hand is just too good for three no-trump. Our choice would be a jump to 4 NT, which asks partner to bid a slam with a maximum opening.
- Q3.—As South, vulnerable, you hold: **K9 ♠ 10 ♠ KQ87 ♠ AKJ3**
- The bidding has proceeded: North West North East 1NT Pass 4NT Pass ?
- 20-22 HCP
- What action do you take?
- A.—First, partner's bid is quantitative, not asking. With 21 clubs, you are on the borderline of accepting. Your two four-card suits wing the decision to accept, but the and could play better in a suit. In an attempt to find a 4-4 fit, accept a sur-card club fit, partner will respond by showing his cheapest four-card suit.
- Q4.—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: **AKQ104 ♠ 7632 ♠ J64 ♠ 5**
- The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass 2♠ Pass ?
- What do you bid now?
- A.—Disregard the advice of those who tell you that you must rob the spades to show a five-card suit. It looks as if partner has at least nine cards in the minors and is, therefore, likely to be short in spades. Take a preference to two diamonds.
- Q5.—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: **AKQ8 ♠ 7873 ♠ 9643 ♠ A72**
- Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
- A.—That depends on style. If you play four-card majors, bid one no-trump to show a balanced hand without four-card heart support. If partner guarantees five hearts for the opening, you know there's an eight-card fit and, with a near maximum in terms of high cards, the more encouraging raise to two hearts should be your choice.
- Q6.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: **AKQ1098 ♠ KQ10 ♠ J8 ♠ AJ**
- Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
- A.—We would jump shift to two spades to show our strength. The suit is perhaps not quite self-sustaining, but the added high-card strength more than compensates. If you don't jump now, you might never be able to catch up.

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U.S. helicopter said downed in Somali capital

Combined agency dispatches
MOGADISHU — A Black Hawk helicopter is believed to have been downed Sunday here in a vast sweep launched in the early afternoon by the U.S. Quick Reaction Force which led to violent clashes with Somalis, according to European military sources and Somali witnesses.

However, no official confirmation was obtainable from U.N. military forces.

Earlier in the day fighting broke out between U.S. and Somali forces near the headquarters of rebel warlord General Mohammed Farah Aided after three U.S. servicemen were injured by a remote-controlled bomb.

Somalis could be seen firing rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) at U.S. helicopters which returned fire with rockets. Witnesses said there were wounded in the fighting near the Bakharah market in the northeast of the city.

The attack came after three U.S. soldiers were injured when a mine exploded as they drove past it, U.N. spokesman Captain Tim McDavitt said.

Capt. McDavitt said a Somali worker travelling with the U.S. soldiers was killed in the car-bomb blast, but denied claims by a crowd of Somalis at the scene that any U.N. staff had been killed.

He said the three Americans, one of whom was seriously injured, were evacuated from the scene of the blast by helicopter.

"No American soldiers were killed," the spokesman said, adding that the blast was caused by a device operated by remote control.

On Sunday afternoon, U.S. Army Rangers were reported to be combing the Bakharah market area together with Pakistani troops and other contingents from the U.N. peacekeeping forces.

The narrow streets of the Bakharah market are reputed to be among the most dangerous in Mogadishu.

Arms are traded there and the area is thought to be one of the hiding places of Gen. Aided.

The U.N.'s 27,000-strong army, whose original mission was to restore order and over-

see the rehabilitation of the ruined country, have been sucked into a war with militia-men loyal to Gen. Aided.

More than 50 peacekeepers and hundreds of Somalis have been killed since June.

The U.N. wants to arrest Gen. Aided for the killing of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers in an ambush in June.

U.S. President Bill Clinton last week called for a new Somali peace strategy in which the U.N. would make greater efforts to rebuild the shattered social structure.

Mr. Clinton denied the Americans were moving away from the aim of capturing Gen. Aided but said achieving national reconciliation should be the goal of the operation.

The Italian ANSA news agency said there was no immediate word on the fate of the crew of the Black Hawk helicopter, believed to consist of three men, following the shooting-down incident at around 1700 local time (1500 GMT).

It was one of five helicopters flying over the Bakharah market as United Nations troops searched the area.

The ANSA report, quoting what it called reliable sources, said 11 American soldiers were believed to have been wounded in clashes with Somali militia-men in the market area.

A Somali eyewitness spoke of seeing dozens of dead Somalis lying in a street.

Puffs of black smoke could be seen in the sky as anti-aircraft missiles were fired at the U.S. helicopters.

Unconfirmed reports said a fragment of a shell had hit a second American helicopter but its pilot had managed to land it safely and no one was believed hurt.

A Belgian helicopter was hit in a separate incident in the Kismayo region in the north of Somalia, ANSA reported.

The Belgian crew were all believed to have survived.

The U.N. special envoy to Somalia, U.S. Admiral Jonathan Howe, held a meeting Sunday with Djibouti President Hassan Gouled Aptidon in Djibouti following an earlier meeting in Addis Ababa with Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi.

Trade centre bomb trial starts today

NEW YORK (R) — Eight women and four men will gather in court Monday to bear testimony on the bombing of the World Trade Centre, the most spectacular guerrilla attack on American soil.

Opening statements are expected in Manhattan's federal court and prosecutors are expected to begin introducing evidence. Lawyers say the trial will last at least three months.

The selection of the 12 jurors and six alternates has been complicated by intense publicity and the fact so many people throughout the metropolitan area were affected by the blast.

The Feb. 26 explosion tore through the basement of the nation's largest office complex, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000. It knocked out electrical and ventilation systems in the 110-storey twin towers, causing hundreds of workers to escape through dark, smoky stairwells.

Some of the defendants are alleged followers of the blind Egyptian cleric Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, who has been charged in a separate federal case with having led the guerrillas that bombed the World Trade Centre.

He is expected to go on trial next year with 14 other defendants on conspiracy charges that include planning to blow up the United Nations and other New York landmarks as well as plotting to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The current case involves four defendants: Mohammad Salameh, 25, an illegal immigrant of Palestinian descent; Nidal Ayyad, 25, a naturalised U.S. citizen of Palestinian descent; Mahmoud Abu Halima, 33, an Egyptian national; and Ahmad Ajaj, 27, a Palestinian born in Jerusalem.

They were accused of having carried out the bombing and for the resulting deaths and injuries. It convicted, they face a possible maximum term of life in prison.

Two other defendants, Ramzi Yousef and Abdul Yasin, remain fugitives.

U.S. District Judge Kevin Duffy and the team of prosecutors and defence lawyers went through some 250 individuals before they could find people willing to serve on the jury or who they thought would be fair.

Many potential jurors asked to be excused because they had already decided the defendants were guilty. Some simply could not afford to be away from their jobs for so long.

Legal experts say the defence will have a difficult time because of the large amount of scientific and circumstantial evidence, but the lawyers are expected to argue that any evidence linking their clients to the bomb is tenuous and that the prosecution is trying to establish guilt by association.

Mr. Salameh was the first to be arrested — on March 4 — as he tried to get back his deposit on a rental van.

Prosecutors allege that the van carried the bomb to the blast site.

Mr. Salameh had reported the van stolen the day before the explosion. He appeared at the rental office, saying the vehicle had been stolen from a grocery store parking lot the night before.

He was arrested on his third trip back to claim the \$200 refund. Police have not explained why he was so persistent about the money when he was allegedly part of a conspiracy and presumably wanted to avoid detection.

Mr. Ayyad, a chemical engineer, allegedly helped build the bomb. Mr. Abdul Halima, who was brought back from Egypt to stand trial, is the alleged ringleader, while Mr. Ajaj is linked to bomb manu-

facturers. Prosecutors also say that Mr. Ayyad wrote a letter sent to the New York Times claiming that the bomb was planted because of resentment over U.S. police in the Middle East.



PRO-COMMUNIST REVOLT: A group of riot policemen tries to stop the crowd to break through the security cordon surrounding the White House in Moscow Sunday (see page one). Violent clashes erupted between some 10,000 anti-Yeltsin demonstrators and security forces (AFP photo)

Political parties gearing up to release lists of candidates

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Political party leaders are laboriously deliberating over nominations for their candidates in the Nov. 8 legislative elections after setting a jolt by last week's announcement that the polls would be held on time. It appeared that most parties have only begun to take the electioneering process seriously ahead of the Oct. 14 kick-off line.

"Our central committee has decided to participate in the upcoming elections," said Ali Sa'ad, head of the conservative Party for Progress and Justice. "We are now analysing who the potential candidates could be. We have formed election committees to assess the strength and viability of every candidate."

Said Mr. Sa'ad, whose party is one of five right-of-centre political parties in the Kingdom.

Founded by a former advisor to His Majesty the King, Adnan Abu Odeh, the party expects that the elections would focus on individualities of candidates rather than on political party loyalties or platforms. "Individual appeal will play an important role in these elections," said Mr. Sa'ad, adding that he expected his party to announce its election list before Oct. 14.

Other more centrist parties, like Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh's Yakhtha Party, have already announced that they have "no party list" but that their members are running as individual candidates.

Mr. Rawabdeh himself has been campaigning in his home district of Irbid, where

he hopes to win enough votes to assure him of a second consecutive term in the Lower House. A native of Sariel, Mr. Rawabdeh told the Jordan Times: "At this stage political parties are still at an embryonic stage and individuals are more likely to get mass appeal than parties will. That's why we are running as individuals rather than parties."

Some leftist parties, especially members of the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), a broad coalition of leftist and liberal parties as well as individuals, are considering joint tickets.

ELECTIONS 1993

But, according to the head of the Jordanian Baath Arab Socialist Party (JBASP), Ahmad Najdawi, one of almost a dozen parties which are part of JANDA, "things won't be decided before Tuesday."

"We are still meeting and JANDA is also having continuous meetings to decide on a strategy and on some 'joint candidates'," Mr. Najdawi said.

"Joint candidates" such as liberal independents who are JANDA members, including former Amman deputies Taher Al Masri and Faris Nabulsi as well as Mohammad Faris Tarawneh of Karak and former Minister of Youth Saleh Irshaid who is running in Irbid, have all been floated by the JANDA coalition.

The Jordan People's

Democratic Party (JPDP), also a member of JANDA, is now reconsidering its election list announced two months ago.

"We have to take the one-person, one-vote factor into account. It had not been decided when we announced our candidates in August. We must take into account recent political events in the region. We may change some of our candidates or run on a joint ticket; this will be decided this week," said party spokesman Isam Khalifeh.

However, some other members of JANDA, such as the Democratic Party for Progress in Jordan (DPPJ) and the Jordanian Communist Party have announced their election lists.

All Amer, the secretary-general of DPPJ, said the party had decided to field six candidates. They are: Nizar Al Kayed in Amman's second district, Ali Rawabdeh in Jerash, Ahmad Mahabeh in Irbid, Dr. Mohammad Hamdan in Zarqa, Faris Jamali in Madaba, and Samir Al Khathib in Irbid.

Dr. Yacoub Zayyadin, the veteran head of Jordan's once-outlawed Communist Party, said he was running for the Christian seat in Amman's Third District, a seat which he failed to secure in the 1989 elections. Writer Fakhr Kassar won the seat with a small margin over Mr. Zayyadin.

The Jordanian Communist Party was fielding two other candidates, Dr. Zayyadin told the Jordan Times. They are Ahmad Jaradat in Irbid and Mohammed Mushref of the Beni Hamida tribe in Madaba.

Russian hardliners launch rebellion

(Continued from page 1)
scene said four armoured troop transports arrived at the building and then opened fire with their machineguns at the crowd, from which gunmen were exchanging fire with defenders of the building.

A tank then fired its cannon into the crowd. At least two persons were seriously hurt.

Anti-Yeltsin crowds had earlier surrounded the T.V. headquarters, home of the two main news channels in Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States, which are accused by the opposition of being biased in Mr. Yeltsin's favour.

Reuters Television filmed armoured personnel carriers and trucks of soldiers on Moscow's southeast ring road early on Sunday evening, on the opposite side of the city centre to the White House parliament building.

There was no indication whose orders they were following.

The current political crisis began last month when Mr. Yeltsin dissolved the conservative parliament after months of confrontation and called elections for a new legislature.

Spokesmen for Russia's Interior Ministry and security ministry, the former KGB, said they remained loyal to Mr. Yeltsin.

"We remain loyal to President Yeltsin," a security ministry spokesman said by telephone. "The Ministry of Security is in control of the situation."

Mr. Rutskoi, named acting president by the ousted legisla-

ture, addressed a crowd of men being beaten up.

Mr. Rutskoi called on security forces to join the rebels.

"You have only seconds to change sides and defect to the people," he said.

Parliamentary officials said police units were already defecting to their side. Reporters saw a group of 200 policemen in bullet-proof vests marching towards the White House amid cheers from the demonstrators, apparently after switching sides.

The Russian Orthodox Church, which held nationwide prayers for reconciliation on Sunday, had organised talks on Friday and Saturday between the two sides, during which the parliament appeared increasingly to be bent on confrontation.

The demonstrations started early on a sunny Sunday afternoon in Moscow's central October Square around a giant statue of Vladimir Lenin, who seized power in a similar armed coup in Petrograd — now St. Petersburg — in October 1917.

The mood fast turned ugly as demonstrators wrested metal riot shields from demoralised police and Interior Ministry.

Police responded with a few half-hearted salvos of tear-gas and a few baton charges, but the demonstrators clearly had the upper hand. Police have been on duty for nearly two weeks in the streets of the capital.

The officials quickly pulled back their water cannon from the front lines and the demonstrators forged ahead towards the White House.

Other witnesses saw police-

Libya decries plan for stiffer sanctions

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Libya Sunday denounced Western plans to step up U.N. sanctions unless Tripoli agrees to hand over two suspects in the Lockerbie bombing.

The draft U.N. resolution tabled by Washington, London and Paris "shows the hatred held by these countries... and their will to combat (other peoples') aspirations for a better future," charged the official news agency JANA.

The Libyan envoy to the United Nations on Saturday dismissed what he called threats from the West.

Ambassador Ali Ahmad Al Khodari, quoted on Libyan Television, said: "Libya attaches no importance whatsoever to the threats of the three Western countries."

On Friday, they tabled the resolution at the U.N. Security Council calling for tighter sanctions against Tripoli because of its refusal to hand two Libyans accused of blowing up a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The December 1988 attack killed 270 people.

France also wants to question at least two Libyans in connection with the destruction of a French UTA airliner over Niger in 1989 that claimed 170 lives.

The ambassador said Libya was trying to resolve an "artificial crisis" with "wisdom and patience (and) without taking into consideration" the actions of three countries.

Foreign Minister Ali Munasser has sent a letter to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali to stress Tripoli's "earnestness and... firm determination" to implement Security Council resolutions on Lockerbie.

Representatives of the three Western states are to meet Dr. Ghali in New York on Monday to discuss Lockerbie, a U.N. spokesman said.

All three have demanded

action rather than words, stressing nothing less than a written guarantee to hand over the Lockerbie and UTA suspects would be acceptable.

Last week, Libya agreed to a trial in Scotland of the Lockerbie suspects but said it was up to the accused to decide whether to surrender.

PLO lobbies Libya

Libya is the only Arab country officially to have opposed the Palestinian-Israeli peace deal, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said in an interview published Sunday.

"Officially, there is no Arab country against the agreement, except Libya," said Mahmoud Abbas, who signed the autonomy accord between Israel and the PLO at the White House on Sept. 13.

"The PLO will exert diplomatic efforts to explain the reasons and motives of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement so Libya will understand our position and change its stand," he told Al Itihad newspaper in the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Abbas made no reference to Syrian or Iraqi criticism of the accord on Palestinian autonomy starting Oct. 13 in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

In a U.S. Television interview broadcast on Friday, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said he felt betrayed by the agreement but stressed he would not scuttle it.

But Mr. Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said the accord would pave the way for other peace deals in the region.

"The Palestinian problem is the most difficult in the Middle East. If its settlement is deferred, then it could be ignored," he said.

"But when you find a solution, then this will pave the way for a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Israelis hunt activists

(Continued from page 1)

Israelis, an apparent reference to militant PLO factions that have said they will honour Mr. Arafat's appeal to halt violence.

Hamas and smaller Islamic groups had kept up attacks on Israelis since the agreement including use of suicide bombers, he said. But there was a substantial drop in attacks by other groups.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israel had not agreed to stop its pursuit of militants.

"On the contrary, there was an understanding that the PLO would also operate against the terrorists. There are no secret agreements," Mr. Peres told army radio in a telephone interview from New York Sunday.

Under the agreement Israel will begin withdrawing its army from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho starting on Dec. 13 and give Palestinians limited self-rule.

Palestinian adviser Ziad Abu Ziyad said Mr. Arafat wrote to Mr. Rabin protesting at the army operations and calling for a halt to all arrests.

"Chairman Arafat considers the Israeli campaign in the occupied territories and especially in Gaza a violation of the spirit of the Israeli-Palestinian accord," Mr. Ziyad, an adviser to Palestinian peace negotiators, told Reuters Sunday.

A wanted PLO guerrilla has issued a personal plea to the Israeli army not to hunt down and kill him and his comrades now that the autonomy agreement has been reached.

"We ask Israel to respect peace and cancel the orders to kill us and to stop hunting us," said Anwar Ekdeh, head of the PLO's armed wing, the Fatah Hawks, in eastern Gaza.

Six guerrillas, including the leader of the Black Panthers, the armed wing on the West Bank of Fatah, were arrested last Wednesday.

"I urge peace-loving Israelis

to stand up for a just peace and to pressure their government to cancel the execution orders against wanted people," Mr. Ekdeh wrote in a statement sent to the media.

"The time for peace and security has come, the time to end terror," he said. "We ask members of parliament to vote in favour of peace and to ask Rabin to cancel the orders to hunt and kill wanted people."

The Hawks have obtained a secret army list of 81 wanted Palestinians on the Gaza Strip, with crosses by certain names which they say mean kill on sight, armed or unarmed.

One of the men on the list was killed on Sept. 7.

Forty-one of the names are from Fatah, 15 from Hamas, 12 for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, 11 from Islamic Jihad and two from unnamed factions.

A military spokesman said the cross refers only to "modality of arrest," but refused to specify. Mr. Ekdeh's name also bears an "A" code meaning he has killed Palestinians and taken part in operations against Israelis.

"The writer of this statement is one of those wanted men with a cross beside his name on the list," said Mr. Ekdeh.

After PLO training in Algeria, Mr. Ekdeh served five years in jail as a Fatah militant from the start of the intifada and was released only in December 1992, Palestinian sources said.

He was commanded numerous deadly operations against Israelis and suspected Palestinian collaborators, the sources said, and has been wanted for the last eight months.

Mr. Ekdeh alleged soldiers have been instructed not to give first aid to wounded, wanted Palestinians, but to let them die.

"This is below the minimum level of humanity," he wrote. "We are human beings, not Nazis who enjoy killing people."

Jordan-Palestinian ties under study

(Continued from page 1)

tinued use of the Jordanian currency and trade agreements around \$300 million a year for a start.

Ahmad Quriah, a senior PLO economic planner, was in Jordan last week discussing economic integration between the Kingdom and the autonomous Palestinian territories.

Declining to reveal details of the proposals, Dr. Majali said: "We have to wait till it is crystallised. It is still a baby. It is still thoughts. And if you just put it in the marker, the likelihood is that you

are going to shoot it down."

Mr. Quriah, a key figure in secret PLO-Israeli negotiations in Norway that led up to the peace accord, is expected to present the Jordanian-Palestinian ideas on economic cooperation at meetings with the Israelis, said Amman-based Palestinian officials who insisted on anonymity.

In occupied Jerusalem, Israeli and Palestinian sources said Mr. Quriah, who heads the PLO's financial arm, Samed, was expected to attend a businessmen's conference later this month.

COLUMN

Sun goddess moves house in ancient ritual

ISE, Japan (R) — The sun goddess, Japan's founding deity, moved house last night in the most sacred rite of the ancient Shinto religion. The ceremony at Ise, about 300 kilometres southwest of Tokyo, takes place once every 20 years, almost without exception since AD 690, a living relic of the earliest days of Japanese history. It marks the moving of the spirit of the sun goddess, Amaterasu, from her old home, a wooden shrine with its thatch now tattered and patched with moss, to a new one nearby. As tradition demands, it was built in the same Yayoi-period style, unpainted and without a single nail. "I am glad we are able to pass along to the next generation this onchaining (element of) the heart of Japan, which has continued since the distant past," said superintendent of the sanctuaries Kuni Kuniaki in a statement after the rite. Amaterasu is revered as the ancestor of the imperial family, and Ise is the family shrine. Emperor Akihito's sister, Atsuko Ikeda, is the high priestess, and his younger son Prince Akihiro presided over Saturday's ceremony.

Belgian police station robbed

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian police are looking for thieves who broke into a police station during the night and made off with money, passports and other valuables. The station in the southeastern town of Liege is closed at weekends, the Belgian News Agency said.

Singapore premier leads mass workout

SINGAPORE (R) — About 65,000 people jumped, leapt and lunged Sunday in a mass aerobics workout aimed at ensuring Singaporeans waistlines do not expand as fast as the prosperous island's standard of living. Thousands of men, women and children, led by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, an avid tennis player and golfer, gathered in a grassy downtown area to participate in the 15-minute "great Singapore workout." State television said tens of thousands also sweated it out at four stadiums elsewhere on the island while television viewers were encouraged to participate at home.

Paris promotes electric cars to cut noise

PARIS (R) — Parisians flocked to the foot of the Eiffel Tower to test electric cars at the invitation of city Mayor Jacques Chirac, eager to cut noise and pollution. A range of prototype vehicles, due to be mass manufactured and sold to the public in 1995, are being offered for test drive to Parisians following Chirac's decision this week to promote the "electromobile" to enhance life in the capital. "It's non-polluting and silent," Mr. Chirac said. "It's the car of the future," the mayor is to increase the town hall's park of 40 electric cars to 300 by late 1995, ranging from cleaning vehicles to hearses, for a last quiet ride to eternity. Mr. Chirac has also pledged to increase the city's number of battery recharge centres from the current 12 and to continue to give free parking facilities to owners of electric cars, of which there are only about 1,000 in France. The cars must currently be recharged about every 70 to 120 kilometres. A process that takes about eight hours.

Briton wins flower-arranging title

STOCKHOLM (R) — A world cup in flower arranging was won by Sue Artus, from Gloucester, England, organisers of the event said. One of this year's surprise tasks was to decorate live models with flowers, as well as the more traditional tests such as table decoration, a bridal bouquet, a floral fireworks display, and a self-portrait in flowers. Second place in the contest, held every four years, was taken by Mikeo Yohino, from Kyoto, Japan, and third was J.R. Nocoan, from Escondido, California. Mark Knox, president of the international organisation behind the world cup, the Florists Transworld Delivery Association, said the winning arrangements would set the pace for future trends in floral design.